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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Envoy Reports Embargo's Effects on Iraq

NC3112160692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1242 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Dr. Rashid Idris, his envoy to Iraq and Kuwait charged with resolving the problem of the Gulf war prisoners and missing persons.

Following the meeting, Dr. Idris said he gave Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid a verbal report on the outcome of his visit to Iraq, adding that he will submit a written report in a few days that will include all the details and contacts he made during his visit to Baghdad.

He said that his contacts with Iraq and Kuwait have not ended yet. He noted that the lists of missing persons presented by Kuwait include around 700 names, adding that these lists are not enough and that there must be other files, that Iraq has received 136 files through the Red Cross, and that there are other files under study, which the Red Cross will take to Iraq. He went on to say: Iraq is studying the files it has already received and will give its answer after studying them. Therefore, he said, I expect to go back to Iraq to continue discussions of this issue. He expects to resume his mission in early February.

The Arab League envoy said: The situation in Iraq is bad, as are the effects of the embargo on the Iraqi people. Iraq is suffering from a shortage of medicines, especially those for diabetes, heart disease, and blood pressure, and this is causing many serious illnesses, especially among children and the elderly.

Dr. Idris said that the embargo on Iraq is so severe that even medicines cannot reach it, adding that universities, teachers, and schools complain of a shortage of paper, pens, and books. He called for intensifying the efforts to alleviate the Iraqi people's sufferings until the embargo issue ends, and noted that the embargo has caused many deaths. He stressed that his mission is primarily an ongoing humanitarian one and no timetable can be set for accomplishing it because there are many factors involved in this problem.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Address Marks Fatah Anniversary

LD3112203992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Address by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat "on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

O revolutionaries in all the posts of the revolution, inside and outside the homeland; O masses of our fighting Palestinian people, O masses of our militant Arab nation, on such a day 28 years ago, the Palestinian people announced the start of the armed Palestinian revolution, which was ignited by the bullets of your pioneering movement—namely, the Fatah movement—on 1 January 1965. [passage omitted]

The road to victory and freedom, which our free men and revolutionaries are building day after day with their bare hands and pure blood, is the road to Palestine, which the faithful are longing for with their hearts.

Our people, O brothers and friends, are the active volcano in the Middle East which will only calm itself when one of the youths of the revolution and the intifadah hoists the flag of your state over Jerusalem, and our homeland Palestine; an independent Palestine. [passage omitted]

Our battle to free the Palestinian will has been decided in favor of the Palestinian people, away from guardianship, dependence, and containment. The battle of the Palestinian will as expressed by the bullets of your leading movement, Fatah, early in 1965 was a hard and bitter one, but the few believers remained true to the oath, and continued with resolve and strength.

The vanguard of your revolution, the Fatah movement, has proven that there is no going back on the jihad for Palestine, on the homeland, or on martyrdom. [passage omitted]

Masses of our glorious Arab nation. Ideological, political, and economic changes have swept our contemporary world. What was yesterday an established fact has today become something of the past. These changes have reached our region in the Middle East, bringing in the wake of their first wave the Gulf crisis and the Gulf war. This has dealt our Arab nation a great blow, hit Arab solidarity, and paralyzed the Arab position toward the Palestinian question, and as a result, lost us an historic opportunity to exploit those world changes for the national and the Palestinian interest. [passage omitted]

Then, my brothers, came the second wave, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the domination by the single uni-polar American power over the fate of international politics.

This new world order brings great, real, and manifest dangers that pose a challenge for the Arab nation—peoples as well as states. These risks keep our nation bogged down in the whirlwind of the conflicts of the new world order. We either live or we will have to die, especially as Israel, world Zionism, and their allies are lying in wait for any serious Arab trend aimed at building our national destiny in light of the new world situation. [passage omitted]

We must stand by our brothers in Iraq—its people and its children, lift their siege and their suffering, and thwart the conspiracy being perpetrated against Iraq's territorial integrity and its unity. Likewise, the sanctions against Libya and its fraternal people must be lifted and their suffering must be brought to an end. And what about Somalia and our absence, as one Arab nation, when dealing with its problems, of which others have had to take charge?

We have the right to ask: Which Arab country appears as the fourth state on the list of the (?main nations of the) new world order? Which one?

[Passage omitted] This is a clear declaration in the name of the entire nation: This land will remain Arab, will remain Arab, and will remain Arab. History will not register that the present generation of Palestinians squandered an atom of the soil of its homeland or of Jerusalem—or of Jerusalem.

Sons of our heroic Palestinian people, heroes in the positions of revolution, brothers, I want it to be clear to us all that the distance between us and the enemy at the negotiations table is too wide. [passage omitted]

Likewise, the distance is wide between us and the enemy in the field of conflict and the battle. But it is our political battle that covers our land and sanctitites, and that will determine our fate and future. After more than a year since the start of the Madrid negotiations, which we attended despite the unjust conditions, our negotiators find themselves still at the same point at which they began. This is because the Israeli enemy is bent on maneuvering and not on negotiating. He tries to gain more time so that the conditions that forced him to sit face to face before the delegation of Palestine—the delegation of the owners of the land the enemy usurped and the land of the people he is persecuting and denies existence—may change.

My beloved people. Let us remember the famous motto after the Basle conference: Land without people for a people without a homeland. Let us remember the Balfour Declaration, the Sykes-Picot Treaty, the Yalta Treaty, the UN Palestine Partitioning resolution, the time of becoming refugees, and then Malta and Madrid.

We have entered the negotiations in highly complicated Arab and international conditions and under unjust circumstances that are aimed at obstructing Palestinian participation. But thanks to our trust in ourselves and in our people, and our bold participation, we overcame the unjust conditions the Israeli enemy imposed.

International support for the Palestine right grew, and then came the Israeli elections, which brought the government of Yitzhaq Rabin, whom the U.S. Administration has given loan guarantees of $10 billion and guarantees for Israeli military supremacy. And so the Israeli Government continued with its policy of the iron fist, beatings, deportation, collective punishments, and crimes against our Islamic and Christian sanctitites. The Israeli Governnment thus persisted in the confiscation of lands and the building of settlements for the new settlers in our land.

The policy of double dealing and measures that govern American attitudes toward the Arab-Israeli conflict have so far frustrated all opportunities for forcing the Israeli enemy to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy and the withdrawal of its aggressor enemies from the Palestinian and Arab territories in implementation of these international resolutions, on whose basis the invitations to the Madrid peace conference were given, and for the implementation of which, talks were held in Washington and elsewhere.

The chronic fault in the pro-Israel U.S. stance alone explains the failure of the peace process in the Middle East. It is clear that successive American administrations make Israel a state above the law and above the resolutions of international legitimacy, and provide it with international protection and unlimited support.

Militant brothers, O sons of our brave intifadah, our Palestinian delegation, the delegation of the Palestinian people, the PLO delegation, from the premise of our national constants approved by our national and central councils tightly tied Palestinian flexibility with the Palestinian national constants. [sentence as heard] With what brothers? With the national constants. Thus it rejected the enemy's sayings and submissions. Our delegation held fast to our national constants and the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, because they are the terms of reference of the peace process, from the moment it started until its conclusion with Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab and Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem, and the implementation of the principle of land for peace and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including our right to return, to self-determination, and to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, on the way to Palestinian-Jordanian confederation in accordance with the voluntary and free choice of the two fraternal peoples: The Palestinian and the Jordanian.

Israel remaining an aggressive state, above the law and international legitimacy, only opens the door before lasting wars and total chaos. Yes, this only opens the door before lasting wars and total chaos in the region, which harms all.

Our steadfast masses in southern Lebanon, deported strugglers, five years of the intifadah have passed during which you wrote a new history for our Palestinian people, which will remain entrenched in the conscience of mankind forever. [passage omitted]

More steadfastness, more all-out confrontations in the sixth year of our blessed Intifadah in the towns, villages, camps, streets, fields, and mountains. The battle for national deliverance has begun with these solid Palestinian human blocs, who fill our lands and defy the bullets of the Israeli occupation and ferocity with their strong and profound faith and deep-rooted will and great sacrifices, and with national unity our staunch shield in the melting pot of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people and revolution. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian people remain the secure fence for the unity of the revolution and the unity of the PLO, and for preserving its national program and its future decisions with patience, wisdom, and persistence, and on the basis of democratic principles and democratic dialogue, common denominators, political and organizational programs approved by our national councils, in order to consolidate this national unity. These democratic principles have foiled crude intervention in our internal affairs of our Palestinian house. Hence, from here and in this blessed year, the sixth year of our intifadah and the 29th of our revolution, we renew the call to all the brothers active in the national field, from all political orientations, to consolidate this national unity. [passage omitted]

I say to those I love in the Israeli prisons and detention camps that the day of freedom is nigh. Your brothers have been pounding at the doors of the great prison and you are pounding at the walls of your prisons and detention camps. Your voices roar to the world. Be patient. Victory is from God. Victory needs no more than an hour's patience. [passage omitted]

Be patient. You are the spark that has inflamed anew the wrath of the masses of the Palestinian people in the face of the Israeli occupation. You are the free sons of this struggling people who have exposed the falsehood of Rabin and his Labor government with regard to the peace process. There will be no peace while you remain away from your homeland and kinsmen and your intifadah. [passage omitted]

Your organization, the PLO, has acted on all fronts throughout the world to prevent the plot of the transfer—from the UN Security Council in New York to Europe, to Russia, to the Islamic and African summits at Dakar, to the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Cairo, to the Nonaligned Movement in Indonesia, to China, and to Japan. The action continues. [passage omitted]

Sons of the great Palestinian revolution, proud struggling people of Palestine, let the 29th year of the Palestine revolution and the sixth year of our blessed intifadah be the year of challenge and victorious confrontation. What year, brothers? The year of challenge and victorious confrontation under the shadow of our solid national untiy and the confidence of the PLO, our national unity, for routing the forces of Israeli dictatorship and the liberation of our Palestinian land and our holy Jerusalem.

Let us all stand like one man with one heart and one goal against our enemy, who occupies our land and homeland and sanctities.

The greater the darkness the closer the dawn! [passage omitted]

Leaders Reject Rabin Proposal on Deportees

TA0201122693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] While Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees have not responded to Rabin's offer to bring them back within nine months, Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi have rejected the prime minister's proposal, saying it is unrealistic. Our correspondent in the territories, Udi Segal, has spoken with al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi.

[Begin recording] [Segal] Rabin's proposal was rejected in the territories. His remarks to the IDF Radio were quoted in every East Jerusalem Arab-language newspaper appearing this morning.

Palestinian delegation spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi said in reaction that deportations are an illegal measure, and are therefore not an issue for bargaining or compromise.

['Ashrawi, in English] That sounds like a public relations exercise, more than a serious or a realistic proposal, knowing that throughout, the intifadah has never been presented as an issue for bargaining or barter or exchange. And he knows that it is the will of the people to reject and to resist occupation. So, it seems to me that if such a bargaining starts that this would in essence legitimize a way of dealing with issues by making Israel commit acts that are illegal, immoral, and politically counterproductive, and then expecting a price in return for stopping them.

[Segal translates and continues] The Palestinians said that Rabin's offer shows he is trying to climb down from the tall deportation tree after receiving negative reactions in Israel and in the wake of the negative situation the deportations created in the territories.

Faysal al-Husayni, head of the greater Palestinian delegation, says that intifadah can be stopped, but not in response to any condition.

[Al-Husayni] I think Mr. Rabin's offer is not serious. A termination of the intifadah depends on other things, and it will not happen in response to a condition. If Mr. Rabin makes several positive steps, then each of his steps will be met with parallel steps on the part of the Palestinians.

[Segal] This was then the reaction in the territories: complete rejection of Rabin's proposal and general consent that the proposal is unrealistic. [end recording]

Sha'th: Peace, Deportation Separate Issues

NC3112185392 Paris AFP in English 1737 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, Dec 31 (AFP)—The Middle East peace process and Israel's expulsions of hundreds of Palestinians are "two battles" which should be dealt with separately, a key advisor to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said Thursday.

Nabil Sha'th, who is also one of the main architects of Palestinian strategy at peace talks with Israel, said the Palestine Liberation Organisation did not want to "stop the peace talks definitively."

Palestinian negotiators, who receive instructions from the PLO, have suspended their participation at the 14-month-old peace talks until the return of the 415 deportees expelled by Israel to Lebanon on December 17.

"The fight against the deportations will continue whether the peace process goes on or not. And, if necessary, we will bring it to the table of negotiations," Sha'th said in an interview with AFP.

He stressed that the peace process and the deportations were "two battles which have to be led separately."

"It is important not to be obliged to accept the deportations just to save the peace process.

"We must not allow (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin to use the peace process as a cover for this," he added.

"This does not mean we want to stop the peace process definitively because fundamentally it is in interest of the Palestinians," he added.

Asked about a meeting last week of Israel's Arab interlocutors at the peace talks, Sha'th said: "No one at that meeting had any intention of halting the peace process."

The meeting was attended by the PLO, the Palestinian delegation at the peace talks as well as the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, although the latter is not taking part in bilateral negotiations with Israel.

The Cairo conference, according to Sha'th, discussed means of obtaining U.N. sanctions against Israel to secure the return of the deportees, alleged members of the Muslim radical Hamas and Islamic Jihad organisations.

The U.N. Security Council has called for the immediate return of the men but Israel ignored the vote while Lebanon refuses to accept them.

Delegation Member Views Deportations

NC0101075593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, in Jerusalem, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Ghassan, Voice of the Arabs welcomes you to the new year, which we hope will be one of peace and stability in the Middle East.

[Al-Khatib] Welcome to you.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will you give us an idea about the prevailing situation in the occupied Arab territories following the Israeli decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians outside the territories and Israel's refusal to comply with UN Security Council resolutions that call for returning the Palestinians to their land?

[Al-Khatib] Public feeling in the occupied areas is one of frustration and lack of hope. The people link the Israeli conduct, as represented in the deportation and refusal to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 799, with the Israeli stand on the negotiations, a stand that refuses to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 242.

The public is awaiting with anticipation the measures the international community, particularly the United Nations, will adopt to force Israel into implementing the Security Council decision.

[Abu-al-Majd] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is demanding a stop of the intifadah in exchange for the return of the deportees. Are you willing to do that?

[Al-Khatib] Intifadah started because of the occupation; it cannot stop unless the occupation ends, but the violent trends within intifadah are basically the result of the frantic polices of the Israeli authorities. It is sufficient to cite one example: After the deportation, Israeli troops killed 13 Palestinians—including a 10-year-old child, two 15-year-old people, and an ambulance driver—either during peaceful demonstrations or without any justification. These frantic Israeli policies cause the violent reaction by Palestinians. Hence, there are two ways to end the violence: first, to make progress in the peace negotiations, and second, to stop the Israeli violence and the severe Israeli policy that does not respect human rights or the Fourth Geneva Convention.

[Abu-al-Majd] Although Israel has not taken any practical step or shown a serious desire to achieve peace during the peace negotiations over more than a year, it is odd that Israel now is saying that it is holding contacts with members of the UN Security Council to persuade them not to indulge in another discussion on the deportees, claiming that this is bound to endanger the peace march. What do you say to this?

[Al-Khatib] Our reply is very simple: What is almost killing the peace process is the deportation. The only way to save the diplomatic march from being doomed is to revoke the deportation decision and return the deportees to their homeland.

[Abu-al-Majd] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that 1993 will be a decisive year for the Middle East peace march, as well as for Arab-Israeli relations, if the two sides give reason the upper hand. Do you believe the Israeli conduct agrees with that?

[Al-Khatib] We are fed up with the contradiction between Israeli public statements that try to give the impression that Israel has the goodwill, on one hand, and the official Israeli stand during negotiations and the actual Israeli conduct in the occupied territories on the other. It is high time for the world to judge Israeli policy by its actual practices and official stands at the negotiations table, rather than by public statements of the Israeli leadership which address the media. I would like to cite a specific example: Peres visited Cairo two months ago. He stated that Israel gave the Palestinians the right during negotiations to control 61.8 percent of the occupied territories. At that time, we were engaged in the seventh round of talks. We heard the Israeli negotiators say that Israel will give the Palestinian side control of only six percent of the occupied territories during the transitional period, give the settlers six percent, and subject the rest to joint control so that the Israeli side can enjoy the right of veto. This is only an example.

The new Israeli Government is good at one thing only—propaganda. I hope everyone will pay attention to the official Israeli stand during negotiations and to Israel's actual behavior, rather than to its statements. There is an Arab saying: Do not look at his tears, but rather at what his hands are doing.

[Abu-al-Majd] What call do the Palestinians address to the international community with the dawn of 1993, amid these inhuman and illegal practices?

[Al-Khatib] I say that the sufferings of the Palestinian people have persisted and taken root for too long. The Palestinian people have given peace a big opportunity, not only by showing willingness to negotiate, but also by accepting to engage in these negotiations on bases that are unfair to them. The Israeli side has not shown responsiveness until now. I hope all those concerned with human rights and peace in the region take this matter seriously because we are on the verge of wasting an opportunity for which we have been waiting for the past 40 years.

[Abu-al-Majd] As we conclude this dialogue, we would like to ask you whether you will attend the next round of talks amid this constant Israeli deportation of Palestinians?

[Al-Khatib] In light of the present deportation, I do not believe it is possible at all to attend the next round. This is not due to our refusal to commit ourselves to peace, but rather to the fact that Israel has placed a specific obstacle that we cannot overlook.

[Abu-al-Majd] Finally, do you believe that the next Arab foreign ministers meeting, which will be held on 11 January, will have an effect on the international community if it adopts resolute decisions?

[Al-Khatib] I believe that this is one of the most important ways, methods, and cards that we can use. If the Arab parties participating in negotiations take a resolute stand on this matter and make their participation contingent on Israel's seriousness and respect for Palestinian human rights and if this stand is backed by the Arab states collectively, I am confident that this will lead to positive results. This may be the only viable way out of the present predicament.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, Dr. al-Khatib, at the end of our dialogue with the dawn of 1993. We hope the peace march will continue and Israel will respond to international resolutions and the prerequisites for peace and stability in the region.

'Arafat Adviser Discusses Peace, Deportees

NC0201103993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Bassam Abu-Sharif, welcome to the airwaves of Voice of the Arabs radio.

[Abu-Sharif] You are welcome, brother.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Abu-Sharif, now that we have begun a new year, how do you view the future of the peace process in the Middle East after eight rounds?

[Abu-Sharif] I make a distinction between the results of the rounds of bilateral negotiations and the peace process when we come to assess the situation in the new year. The peace process, in my estimation, will continue because there are interests, particularly the interests of the big power that is sponsoring the peace process with Russia, that demand that this process continue. The U.S. interest specifically demands that there be a stable Middle East. The United States definitely realizes that stability in the Middle East cannot take place unless Israel ends its occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories and unless the Palestinian people secure their rights, particularly to self-determination. This factor will, by necessity, maintain the continuity of the peace process despite the current Israeli Government's position, which refuses to implement the resolutions of the international legitimacy. The time will show that even with regard to the Israeli Government the peace process is bound to continue if the international powers want stability in the Middle East, and I think they do. The peace process will continue despite the position of the Israeli Government, because the Palestinian people's resistance to occupation will continue and even escalate in light of the Israeli occupation forces' escalation of their ironfisted actions and Rabin's insistence on implementing this policy, which he himself implemented as defense minister in the Shamir government.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we say that this Palestinian position on adhering to and continuing the peace process is the same as the Arab position, in general?

[Abu-Sharif] This is correct, because the Palestinian position is based on a program approved by the Palestinian parliament, the Palestine National Council. The Arab states taking part in the peace process believe that the principles on which U.S. President George Bush's initiative was based and according to which the peace process began—that is to say, the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy granting the Palestinian people their full political rights, security, and stability for all the countries in the area—are sound and still valid. What is important is to see a determination by the new U.S. Administration to persuade the Israeli Government that the occupation must end if Israel wants to live in peace and security and become a Middle Eastern state that maintains normal relations with its neighbors.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What is your evaluation of the UN role on the issue of the deportees, especially as the UN Security Council has adopted a unanimous resolution calling on Israel to return the deportees to their homes?

[Abu-Sharif] There is no doubt that the United Nations has an effective role to play if the big powers, which—I do not want to say dominate—possess much influence in the Security Council, want UN resolutions to be implemented. We have seen UN Security Council resolutions being implemented, even by military force, as happened in the Gulf. The UN Security Council must now prove the credibility of its resolutions to the Arab nation, the Palestinian people, and the entire world. The Security Council adopted a clear resolution that condemned the deportation and called on Israel to return the deportees to their homes and families.

When we met yesterday with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali he was very clear that he will begin contacts with the permanent Security Council member states in view of the report that his envoy, who has visited Israel, the occupied areas, and Lebanon, will submit. In light of this, we ourselves will invite the UN Security Council to meet again to adopt an executive resolution regarding Resolution 799, which called on Israel to return the deportees. The responsibility now falls on the international community and Security Council. The entire world thinks that 415 Palestinians, most of them academicians and doctors who have nothing to do with any terrorist operation, have been expelled from their homes to a no-man's-land, an area where no one has any control. They are living under very hard conditions, suffering from shortages of drinking water, food, medicine, and even clothes. This is a humanitarian and political issue, and the UN Security Council has full responsibility toward this issue.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Should Israel persist in its refusal to return the Palestinian deportees and what are the alternatives to exerting pressure on Israel to rescind its decision?

[Abu-Sharif] The Security Council will have to study and consider the matter because we will demand that the UN Security Council use one scale in implementing its resolutions and not two. We have already seen the UN Security Council adopt hard-hitting resolutions, reaching the point of declaring war, to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Now we see another resolution that Israel is rejecting. The Security Council must find a mechanism to implement this resolution. Otherwise, the entire area will become a state of turmoil with unpredictable consequences. Furthermore, I would like to mention that we drew the attention of the UN secretary general, during president Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with him in Geneva, that this operation is tantamount to the displacement of the Palestinians. If the 415 Palestinians stay away from their homes, they will be followed by their families. This means that some 5,000 Palestinians will have been moved outside their land, and so forth. Unless the United Nations and Security Council adopt a firm stand forcing Israel to return the deportees, we fear that there will be deportations on a wider scale. Rabin himself used the word transfer when he mentioned the deportation of the Palestinians outside their land.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Bassam Abu-Sharif, thank you very much, and we always welcome you to the airwaves of the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you, Ashraf.

U.S. 'Responsible' for Situation

JN0101080093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Manama, 1 Jan (WAKH)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the Palestinians and Arabs hold the U.S. Administration fully responsible for what is taking place in the Middle East. He warned that the region will become completely unstable if the United States continues to appease Israel in its intransigence. In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM published today, Abu-Sharif said that the Palestinians will demand the implementation of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter in order to implement Resolution 799 concerning the Palestinian deportees expelled by Israel to Lebanon.

Bassam Abu-Sharif said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made a big mistake when he acted like a war general, not as a prime minister. He added that if Rabin continues to act as a general, the situation in the region will become tense and the future of the peace process will be at stake.

Abu-Sharif said that the Palestinians expect U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton to move now, otherwise the region will become unstable. He stressed that the Palestinians are determined to wage the deportees' battle until the end, adding that the credibility of the West, particularly the United States, is being tested after Security Council Resolution 799 was approved unanimously.

Abu-Sharif stressed the importance of Arab solidarity to concentrate Arab efforts on putting the Israeli enemy in a corner so that the resolutions of international legitimacy can be implemented and the U.S. Administration helped in convincing Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab and Palestinian territory.

'Arafat Holds Meeting With Hamas in Khartoum

NC0201204793 Paris AFP in English 2004 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 2 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met here Saturday [2 January] with delegates from the Palestinian Islamic resistance movement Hamas in a bid to smooth over differences between the two groups, correspondents reported.

The meeting was chaired by Sudanese Islamic leader Hasan al-Turabi, who is seeking to end a feud between the secular PLO and Hamas that has led to confrontations in the occupied territories.

The PLO has steadfastly refused to abandon U.S.-and Russian-sponsored negotiations with Israel despite Hamas demands that the talks be broken off.

Pressure on the PLO to withdraw entirely from the Middle East peace initiative increased with Israel's deportation December 17 of 415 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip it accused of being members of Hamas.

The PLO leader in an interview published Saturday in the French magazine L'EXPRESS reiterated his commitment to the peace initiative but warned that the Israeli expulsions could "torpedo" peace efforts.

The deportees are currently stranded in snow and bitter cold in a no-man's land in southern Lebanon between the Israeli and Lebanese forces.

PLO and Hamas delegates held an initial meeting in Tunis in late December. Hamas is not part of the PLO umbrella formation.

Hamas Said Trying To Join PLO

NC0301215493 Paris AFP in English 2059 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Amman, Jan 3 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, is holding talks in Sudan with PLO officials on how to join the Palestine Liberation Organization, a senior PLO official told AFP Sunday.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a PLO executive committee member, said PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's talks with Hamas leaders in Khartoum focus on "the possibility of including this movement in the PLO's ruling bodies."

'Abd-Rabbuh said the Arab-Israeli peace talks begun in October 1991—which the PLO supports and Hamas violently rejects—"are not an obstacle to Hamas' membership in the PLO."

"An understanding on all the political questions is not necessary, the PLO being a democratic institution" which can accept widely varying tendencies, said 'Abd-Rabbuh, director of the PLO's information department.

PLO groups like the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine are also opposed to the peace talks.

The meeting in Khartoum, which began Saturday, involves 'Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO and Hamas officials.

Hamas demands that the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks withdraw immediately.

The PLO and Hamas, rivals for leadership of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, began a rapprochement after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians suspected of belonging to Hamas and other extremist groups.

The Palestinians remain stranded in a no-man's land in south Lebanon.

Factions Criticize Tunis Statement on Expellees

JN0201212493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and the Palestine Liberation Front have criticized the statement issued at the end of recent meetings held in Tunis [by the Palestinian leadership]. A joint statement issued by the four factions on 31 December cited the failure of the Tunis statement to come up with a plan for political action to counter Israel's mass expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanon.

Algeria

Setif Security Arrests FIS Armed Group Members

LD0401092093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Setif security services have arrested an armed group of 69 people affiliated to the armed wing of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

A police patrol has also killed a terrorist and wounded another near the Gallitouce district of Algiers. The police in Oued El Ma, Batna Province have discovered the body of a member of an armed group active in Djebel Metsaoua.

El Eulma Security Disbands Armed FIS Group

LD0301172093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The security services of the El Eulma district have succeeded in dismantling an armed group of 69 persons. The group has been involved in subversive acts, and intended to carry out assassination operations against national security staff and state employees. Our correspondent Faisal Ghames has more details:

[Ghames] The group concerned is connected with a group consisting of 40 persons that was dismantled by the El Eulma district security forces last November. Some members of this group remained at large until they were apprehended last week. As a result of their investigations, the El Eulma security services succeeded in arresting 67 persons who were active in El Eulma province and whose involvement in subversive acts was confirmed.

According to the same sources, six members of the group were responsible for destroying 23 telephone poles owned by the national railway company at Germane village 6 km from El Eulma city last October. The security services say that the six constitute the group's wing in charge of attacking economic targets.

The El Eulma security services recovered 24 high-caliber pistols and four shotguns, in addition to a quantity of ammunition and 2 kg of gunpowder used in making home-made bombs, from the 67 persons. They also recovered three stolen cars used by the group in their activities. The district security services stated that there are two municipality employees among the group who falsified a marriage certificate for a group member who was in Afghanistan, and who was in charge of arranging the return of Algerians from Afghanistan to Algeria.

The members of this group, who belong to the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], according to the district security services, will appear in court soon. They are accused of plotting against state security, forming an armed terrorist group, and planning to assassinate security men, in addition to destroying public property and possessing and dealing in illegal weapons.

Ministry Suspends Publication of EL-WATAN

LD0201212093 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The Ministry of Culture and Communications issued a statement this evening announcing its decision to suspend publication of the daily EL-WATAN as from 2 January. The ministry indicated that the newspaper is being suspended because it published an embargoed news item. This seriously impeded the progress of an investigation concerning a criminal act perpetrated in a place subject to national defense secrecy.

Suspended Paper To Resume Publication 4 Jan

LD0201231893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Regarding the EL-MASSA newspaper, the Ministry of Culture and Communications has decided that the preventive measure taken to stop publication of the newspaper should be in force for 48 hours. Accordingly, the daily EL-MASSA will be able to resume publication from Monday 4 January.

The statement of the Ministry of Culture and Communications, issued this evening, said that the ministry has ordered that severe measures be taken against the journalist who wrote the article which was the reason for the newspaper's suspension.

Ali Kafi Addresses Army Officers 30 Dec

LD3112123292 Algiers APS in English 1142 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Algiers, Dec 31 (APS)—The president of the Higher State Committee, Ali Kafi, who met Wednesday higher officers of the People's National Army, made a speech in which he underlined that this army is the dignified heir of the National Liberation Army. It has always been inspired, he said, of the values, principles and ideals of the glorious revolution of November 1st which were resolutely centered on modernity, progress, the republican nature of the state, social justice and national solidarity.

In conformity with these principles, he continued, the People's National Army has as a fundamental mission the preservation of national independence, the stability and the reinforcement of the state under its republic form, the safeguard of the unity of the people and the defence of the territorial integrity of the country.

The People's National Army, he said, is a republican army which respects legality. It intervened three times in conformity with the constitution and in the respect of legal forms and laws in force everytime the national independence was threatened and national sovereignty and territorial integrity were in danger.

The People's National Army, he further said, has always been a vanguard institution, a rampart in front of the attempt aimed at dislocating the state and at destroying its institutions. it has always been a constant force to thwart any desire aimed at the confiscation of the gains of the people and the conquests of the national liberation movement. It has been and remains among the first defenders of the national projects and the values of the nationalist movement.

Algeria, he added, is living today the most serious crisis since its independence, a complex and multidimensional crisis which culminated with the emergence of terrorism and the use of violence and destruction to reach power. In this difficult period, he said, the People's National Army has acted in maturity, discipline, responsibility firmness and determination towards the challenges launched by the enemies of the people inside and outside Algeria.

The Higher State Committee, he said in conclusion, pays homage to the army, police and gendarmerie forces for all the sacrifices made in order to put an end to the danger threatening the nation.

On another turn, he said that the Higher State Committee (HCE) was instituted on January, 14, 1992, to carry out "the necessary conditions for the normal functionning of the institutions and the constitutional order". In the frame of this mission, it is working untiringly for the restoration of the public order and security as an absolute priority, the rehabilitation of the state, the good functioning of the public administration and services, the relaunch of the national economy, the preservation of the social stability and the civil peace. It is evident that it is a huge task. The transitional period leading to the end of the crisis and to the definitive stabilization of the situation, must be clearly defined in its content and managed with the necessary firmness.

One is to reaffirm that it is by no means in the Higher State Committee's intentions to exploit the difficult and complex circumstances the country is living, to remain in power.

It is imperative to clarify the fundamental options as to the management of this phase and to define ways and means to carry out this noble mission. This responsibility does not fall with one man, a group or an institution, but it demands the mobilization of all the active forces of the nation. As a high officer of the People's National Army, he said, and as general secretary of the National Organization of Moudjahidine and HCE president, my pride is great to note that the spirit of November and the values of the National Liberation Army (ALN) were respected and perpetuated by the People's National Army.

I am also aware, he carried on, of the sacred mission we all assume and we all have to work for safeguarding it and transmitting it to a new nationalist generation respectful and guarantor of the constants of the nation, which will carry on the march of the nationalist movement on the basis of its principles deeply rooted in the consciousness of the people.

HSC Members Not Seeking To Contest Presidency

LD3112142192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Excerpts] In a speech yesterday before senior cadres of the Ministry of National Defense, Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council [HSC], stressed that the People's National Army is the descendent of the National Liberation Army and that it is a republican army committed to legitimacy which has been forced to intervene three times since 1988, in accordance with the Constitution which calls for this whenever national independence and sovereignty and the security of national territory are in jeopardy. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, Ali Kafi said that the HSC's action is not part of any ambition for power and its members do not intend to enter any electoral contest for the presidency. The HSC, as Mr. Ali Kafi said, does not mean to use the country's difficult and complex conditions as an excuse to remain in power.

Egypt

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 3 Jan

NC0301131293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin arrived in Cairo this afternoon.

While here, Beilin will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign minister under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, on Israel's decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories and the effect this will have on the peace march.

Beilin Meets With Musa, Al-Baz

NC0301182093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2106 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—A session of talks began at the Foreign Ministry this evening between Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who arrived in Cairo at noon today on a short visit to Egypt.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, earlier held a 90-minute meeting with the Israeli deputy foreign minister during which they discussed developments in the Middle East in light of Israel's decision to expel the Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories and this decision's impact on the peace process.

Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Yosi Beilin stated after the talks that they discussed a number of issues pertaining to bilateral relations, the peace process, the

Washington talks, and the multilateral talks, particularly a number of projects discussed by the multilateral negotiations' committees.

Beilin expressed the view that relations between Egypt and Israel will remain the cornerstone of the peace process in the Middle East. He added: There are big problems, but there is hope that this year will witness the signing of peace agreements with our neighbors. He said that Israel is ready to extend humanitarian assistance to the deportees, but it is not Israel's responsibility alone; it is also Lebanon's responsibility.

He expressed the hope that the peace process will continue to achieve its objectives in the future.

Answering a question about whether the meeting between the PLO and Hamas in Khartoum today was discussed, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: We did not discuss this issue in particular. Our discussions focused on ways to strengthen the peace process, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track. The foreign minister affirmed Egypt's readiness to support any move to achieve progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track and to back the Palestinian negotiators in the peace efforts.

Musa added that Egypt continues to urge Israel to reconsider its decision to deport the Palestinians and to put an end to this problem so as not to increase the suffering of the deportees. He said that Egypt thinks it is important and necessary to find a solution to this problem. He added: The deportation decision will have a negative effect on the peace process. Once again we urge the Israeli Government to reconsider this decision to enable the peace process to continue in an atmosphere of hope rather than tension and division. We are confident that this will be achieved.

He noted in conclusion that the talks he held with Beilin were fruitful and said he hoped that they would help to promote the peace efforts.

Al-Baz Meets Palestinian Delegation To Discuss Deportation

NC3112154192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1448 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with a Palestinian delegation made up of PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and Fatah Central Committee member Hakam Bal'awi. They discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and means of action at the Arab and international levels to face the deportation of Palestinians, which is a link in the process of transfer [previous word in English] undertaken by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people. The meeting was attended by Sa'id Kamal, Palestine ambassador in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo.

The Palestinian delegation arrived earlier in Egypt as part of a tour of a number of Arab states.

Sudanese Plan To Take Over Schools Reported

NC3112211292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—A responsible Foreign Ministry source stated today that Egyptian authorities are currently studying the Sudanese Government's decision to incorporate the schools of the Egyptian mission into the Sudanese educational system.

The source explained that the study will encompass the results and implications of the Sudanese decision.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1446 GMT on 31 December, in a related Cairo-datelined report, cites Faruq Abu-'Isa, former Sudanese foreign minister and current secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Federation, as saying the Sudanese decision is "reckless and it reveals the nature of the ruling Sudanese regime and its hostility toward the historical relations between the peoples of Egypt and Sudan."

[MENA adds: "In a statement today, Abu-'Isa praised the Egyptian educational mission's role in supporting education and culture throughout Sudan. He described the Sudanese decision as a confiscation of the schools of the Egyptian educational mission with a view toward turning them into tools in the hands of the National Islamic Front in Khartoum"]

Ministry Criticizes Decision

NC3112212092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The Egyptian Education Ministry has issued the following statement: We have received with astonishment the Sudanese Government's decision to bring the Egyptian educational mission throughout Sudan under the control of the Sudanese Education Ministry. The ministry regrets this decision because the Egyptian mission has historically been a cultural and educational bridge supporting integration and brotherhood between the two fraternal peoples. Egypt has always been eager to offer its teachers and experts to the fraternal Sudanese people in the hardest of times, even in specialities where Egypt itself suffers acute shortages.

The statement adds that the Education Ministry of the Arab Republic of Egypt is eager to continue to provide all educational services needed by the fraternal Sudanese people. It calls on the Sudanese authorities to reconsider the decision, which, we believe, serves neither the higher interests of the Sudanese people nor the eternal relations between the two peoples.

The Sudanese authorities yesterday decided to incorporate the primary and preparatory schools of the Egyptian educational missions in all Sudanese regions into the Sudanese educational system.

Source Denies Political Motive

NC3112212492 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 2133 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—On its front page tomorrow, the opposition newspaper AL-SHA'B publishes the following report:

A responsible Sudanese source has denied the existence of any political motives behind the Sudanese Education Ministry's decision to put the schools of the Egyptian educational mission in Sudan under its control. The source added that the decision had been expected and had been similarly applied to all missionaries and educational missions operating in Sudan. The source pointed out that the decision is in line with the Sudanese Government policy of "Sudanizing" the curricula, which he added are a great deal different from Egyptian curricula.

In the fifties, Egypt made a similar decision to Egyptianize education in Egypt.

Radio on 'Irresponsible' Decision

NC0101202193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq]

[Text] The Sudanese Government's irresponsible and incomprehensible decision incorporating the schools of the Egyptian mission into the Sudanese educational system was deliberate. It came at a time when Egypt was eager to maintain smooth relations with Sudan and contain any crises as quickly as possible. Egypt and Sudan are linked by longstanding historical relations. The two countries are bound by the ties of language, history, religion, heritage, culture, and the great Nile.

The two peoples of the Nile Valley have been living in a fraternal climate for hundreds of years. They have maintained strong relations, with the Egyptians supporting their brothers in Sudan and never hesitating to provide them with all experience, including educational expertise. Egyptian schools spread in Sudan, and they were supervised by the Egyptian educational mission, which worked under the law for many years. The Sudanese themselves testify that the schools provided many services to the sons of fraternal Sudan. Never before has any Sudanese regime adopted an Arab [as heard] position toward these schools, which have rendered unlimited service to the Sudanese brothers. These schools are lights that radiate education and culture on the fraternal Sudanese people.

The Sudanese Government's strange decision swims against the current of cooperation between Egypt and Sudan. The educational service which Egypt willingly offered to the Sudanese brothers was meant to support cooperation within the framework of coordination and integration—something about which Egypt is concerned. Made at this particular time, Sudan's strange and incomprehensible decision means that Egyptian-Sudanese relations have been affected by something out of harmony with the historical and brotherly relationship.

Egypt was astonished by this act, which disregards special Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Egypt, however, will not respond to the Sudanese measure by taking a negative step, because Egypt deals with Sudan, in all circumstances, as a sisterly country. More than 3.5 million Sudanese live in Egypt, most of them receiving education at Egyptian universities, institutes, and schools of all levels. These brothers are cared for by the Egyptian people and Government. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has always wanted this; he regards Sudan as a dear brother. The relations between Khartoum and Cairo, therefore, must not be tarnished; poor relations neither serve the interests of the two peoples nor respect Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

We hope the Sudanese Government's decision will not signal the start of deterioration in the special relations and ties between the two peoples of the Nile Valley. The leadership, Government, and people of Egypt always have been eager to bolster relations between Egypt and Sudan because this is the fate and destiny of the two peoples in the context of the special relations about which both the Egyptian leadership and the various Sudanese leaderships traditionally have cared.

Therefore, we hope that the leadership currently ruling Sudan will try, in its decisions, not to harm the historical relations between the two fraternal peoples, who stem from a unified body fed by one blood and living on the waters of the immortal Nile.

Once again we say that Egypt received the Sudanese Government's decision on the schools of the Egyptian mission in Sudan with regret and astonishment. The Egyptian Education Ministry's statement expressed regret over the decision, because the Egyptian educational mission historically has been a cultural and educational bridge supporting fraternal integration between the two fraternal peoples and providing all the Sudanese people's educational needs. The statement also reflected the sentiments of the Egyptian people toward the Khartoum government's decision. The leadership, Government, and people of Egypt are eager to maintain the positive factors in Egyptian-Sudanese relations, provided that the Sudanese Government refrains from introducing negative factors that subject the relations between the two peoples of the Nile Valley to extortion and dangers which neither Egypt nor Sudan need.

Sudanese Accusation of Cross-Border Moves Denied

NC0301163693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1504 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today told journalists that the Sudanese memorandum to the UN Security Council [UNSC] included a number of deliberate mistakes. For one thing, he said, the memorandum ignores the international treaty the two countries signed in 1899. The memorandum also incorrectly accuses Egypt of conducting military moves outside the Egyptian borders set at the 22d parallel, he added.

The foreign minister described Sudan's accusations as groundless and pointed to the strong relations between the two nations, denying that Egyptian troops have crossed the 22d parallel.

The Sudanese memorandum, Musa pointed out, took the Egyptian Foreign Ministry by surprise because the committee on Hala'ib was preparing to meet.

Musa said that he sent a message to the UNSC president containing Egypt's response to the allegations and accusations made in the message that the Sudanese foreign minister sent earlier to the UNSC president. In his message, Musa clarified the legalities of the issue, citing the 1899 agreement drawing Egyptian-Sudanese borders.

Musa said that the Egyptian memorandum will be distributed to UNSC members.

The foreign minister said that he still believes that the Joint Egyptian-Sudanese Committee is the appropriate framework for resolving any problems between the two countries. This should be the case, he said, unless Sudan has decided to abolish that committee.

Musa added: If the committee is abolished, we will look at matters differently, but this has not happened yet.

He pointed out that Egypt's official borders are on the 22d parallel and this will not change. He said that any accusations or misgivings can be tackled through the work of the Joint Egyptian- Sudanese Committee.

Musa commented on Sudan's decision concerning the Egyptian education mission by saying: This matter is still being examined. Any measure that could heighten tension is ill-advised.

Boycott of Chemical Weapons Conference Noted

NC0301192093 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1857 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—A responsible Foreign Ministry source has told our correspondent that Egypt will not participate in the Paris conference on the nonproliferation of chemical weapons unless Israel agrees to submit its nuclear weapons to international supervision and nonproliferation.

Egypt is currently holding extensive contacts with all the Arab states to adopt this stand and to refrain from participating in the Paris conference scheduled for 13 January if these conditions are not met.

Butrus-Ghali Comments on Somalia, Deportees

NC0201214093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] During a stopover at Cairo Airport on his way to Addis Ababa, UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali has stated that he will hold a meeting the day after tomorrow in Addis Ababa to be attended by representatives from the Arab League, the OAU, and Somali leaders to lay down an agenda for a reconciliation conference in Somalia and the bases of this reconciliation.

Regarding the Palestinian deportees, Dr. Butrus-Ghali said that he will call James Jonah, the envoy sent to Israel in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799, from Addis Ababa to be briefed on the outcome of his talks in Israel. He added that he will send a preliminary report to the Security Council to take the necessary measures.

The UN secretary general was received and seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

'Amr Musa Cites UN 'Double Standard'

NC0101162293 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Dec 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Arabs and Muslims cannot accept the UN Security Council's hesitant handling of the Bosnia-Hercegovina and Palestinian deportees issues.

He told the People's Assembly yesterday [26 December] that the Security Council is suspected of practicing a double standard toward international crises. We already have warned against this, and it is high time the Council dealt with the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina in a better fashion, Musa said.

The remarks were made in commenting on the deputies' discussion, which stressed that the Security Council is practicing a double standard. [passage omitted]

Government Recognizes Czech, Slovak States

NC0101092193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0852 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—Egypt has recognized Czech and Slovakia as two independent and sovereign states in accordance with the Czechoslovak parliament's decision to dissolve the Czechoslovak federation as of 1 January. The recognition was announced in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today.

The statement mentioned that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has sent two messages to Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec and Slovak Foreign Minister Milan Knazko recognizing the two new states and congratulating them on the occasion.

In his messages, Musa expressed hope that relations with the two Republics will proceed toward further growth in line with the traditional friendly ties linking the Egyptian people with both the Czech and Slovak people. He also expressed hope that these relations will be based on mutual respect for international law and agreements signed between Egypt and the former Federal Republic of Czechoslovakia.

Mubarak on Terrorism, Deportees, Reform

NC0101093593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his optimism that the new year, 1993, will see the end of the terrorism and extremism phenomenon in Egypt, particularly since the terrorists obviously do not want democracy and have no interest in achieving stability and progress in the country.

In his New Year's statements to AL-AHRAM today, the president said that he is deeply sad for the minority of young people who have been deceived by professional terrorists and extremists into committing terrorist acts to serve the instigators' political goals, which are alien to our religion. Although they are wrongdoers who are now being brought to account by the judiciary, these young men are partly victims of ignorance, deception, and instigation by felonious instigators who used their innocence and social and economic conditions to serve their lowly goals, he said.

The president added: I am certain that these young men's actions do not reflect the feelings of patriotic Egyptian youth, who are aware of their country's interests, the youth who sacrificed their lives to defend their country and provided magnificent examples of affiliation, patriotism, and sense of responsibility for their country. He cited the last of these examples as the blood and effort the youth put forth during the earthquake catastrophe.

All I hope for is for the youth to watch out for those who try to deceive them and take advantage of their problems and sufferings to serve lowly rather than religious interests, Mubarak said, adding: We are paying much attention to the problems of our young people and we are trying as much as possible to resolve all their problems at the same time. He said, however, that our destiny is to face all accumulated problems at the same time.

As the case is everywhere, we have positive as well as negative aspects. However, I can honestly say that the positive aspects are greater and wider and that the negative aspects are not incurable; they only require more time and effort. We do not have a magic wand with which we can resolve all problems with a single touch. We are making constant efforts and unceasing sacrifices to eliminate the inherent, accumulated problems, he said.

In his statements, President Mubarak called on the youth not to allow anyone to deceive them. I call on them, or rather appeal, to be patient to our conditions and problems until we can realize their aspirations in the near future, he said, adding: This can only be achieved in an atmosphere of security and stability. We ultimately seek to create a new generation that has faith in God and the homeland and enjoys a dignified life, he said. [passage omitted]

On his vision of Middle East peace, the president said that Egypt is holding constant contacts with the Palestinians and Israelis. He expressed his belief that 1993 will see a detente in the Palestinian problem and will resolve many of its outstanding and chronic complications.

Touching on the issue of the Palestinian deportees, Mubarak affirmed that Egypt is making its utmost to resolve this problem. He said the problem should have been resolved within the country that deported them in the first place. We absolutely do not approve of their deportation, he said, adding: This problem must be resolved quickly and all possible efforts should be made to guarantee a dignified and humane treatment of the deportees. Mubarak affirmed that Egypt is sparing no effort to resolve the problem through intensive contacts at various levels.

On his vision of the future of economic reform in Egypt and the aspects on which it will focus in the coming stage, the president said that reform is proceeding with firm and sustained steps. He added that the approach Egypt is adopting is observing the people's collective interests. I will dedicate my efforts in the coming stage to finding suitable solutions for the problems of low-income groups to alleviate their sufferings as well as provide job opportunities for the youth, he said.

The president said that we have no solution other than to continue economic reform and make every possible effort to support the have-nots. He strongly warned against the dangers posed by the population increase, which devours every increase in production and development and kills new job opportunities. [passage omitted]

In his statements, the president said the new year will witness a number of important meetings between him and heads of state, including U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, and European leaders. He added that the OAU summit will be held in Cairo in June and that he will hold talks with a number of African leaders. He said that all these meetings will discuss joint interests, with particular emphasis on Egyptian interests. [passage omitted]

The president expressed his belief that there is nothing called the new world order, because the world picture is shaken and unstable. He said, however, that time is capable of restoring stability to the world order.

Mubarak added that internal conditions cannot be corrected unless Egypt maintains distinctive relations with the outside world. He mentioned in this context U.S. President-elect Clinton's campaign, which focused on domestic problems, saying that Clinton now says that foreign and international issues as well must get their share of attention. The president said that no state, big or small, can live in isolation from the world. [passage omitted]

Talking about his expectations for the new year, the president touched on the situation in the Arab world and the problem of maintaining the unity of Arab ranks. He said in this regard that the Gulf countries are still hurt by the stab in the back they received when Iraq invaded Kuwait. [passage omitted]

He said that restoring normalcy in Arab relations takes a long time, because the problem is not an easy one and solving it requires constant and sustained goodwill. We know that the Arab world changes like waves in the sea and that the people have no patience, he said. He added, however, that there is a great hope that time will help heal the wounds.

The president said that the social fund's activity will be enhanced in the new year and that it will finance a large number of projects in the fields of developing projects and small industries and environmental and social services. He said that the ultimate goal is to create new job opportunities for graduates, women, and deprived areas.

He said that the funds allocated to projects in the first phase amount to 617 million Egyptian pounds and that these projects will provide 313,000 job opportunities. [passage omitted]

Mubarak said the second phase, which will be implemented in 1994, will include 25 projects that are expected to cost 1 billion Egyptian pounds.

Tourists, Foreigners Warned To Leave

NC0201213093 Paris AFP in English 2048 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Jan 2 (AFP)—The clandestine Islamic group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has warned all foreigners to leave Egypt, saying their lives are threatened by the conflict between fundamentalists and the Egyptian government.

Egyptian Interior Minister General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa meanwhile declared in a statement published Saturday in the newspaper AL-MASA' that apart from "four terrorists" still at large all Islamic fundamentalists accused of involvement in acts of violence in Egypt had been arrested.

Most of the arrests were made during major operations in Upper (southern) Egypt and Cairo in the past two months.

Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, in a warning distributed this week in Asyut, 400 kilometres (248 miles) south of Cairo, said: "Tourists coming to Egypt and foreigners living here must leave the country because we fear they could be killed in the conflict between us and the secular regime which is fighting against Islam."

The conflict had reached "dangerous stages," the organisation said in its statement, which was dated December 4, the day after a military court in Alexandria imposed the death sentence on eight Islamic fundamentalists.

Residents of Asyut said the statement had been delivered to their homes over the past few days.

In October and November 1992 al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, the main underground Islamic organisation in Egypt, claimed responsibility for two attacks against tourists in Upper Egypt. One Briton died and six Germans were injured.

In mid-September, al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah issued a statement asking tourists to stay away from the area around Qina and Luxor in Upper Egypt, warning of an "escalation in the fighting" between government forces and Islamic fundamentalists.

The organisation condemned the death sentences handed down on December 3 and said the "military proceedings" were unprecedented in Egypt and a "fatal sign" for President Husni Mubarak "and his regime."

It said its members would fight to the "last drop of their blood" to establish an Islamic state.

On Tuesday, police said the Islamic fundamentalist considered to have planned the attacks against the tourists had been killed by police in the Asyut region.

Draconian security measures were taken in Cairo to ward off any attack against tourists during New Year festivities.

Just before the New Year, police raided two Cairo suburbs and about 100 people were arrested.

Al-Jihad Leader on Attacks Against Tourists

NC0101215193

[Editorial Report] The magazine Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic on pages 24 and 25 of its 25 December issue publishes an approximately 3,500-word dispatch from Washington correspondent Muhammad Wahbi on a telephone debate broadcast "live last week" by the "Arab-American Radio Network." Wahbi says he participated in the debate along with al-Jihad leader Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and Dr. Ma'mun Findi, an Arab-American professor at Southern Illinois University, who also writes for THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. The debate was conducted by moderator Hafiz al-Mirazi. In his dispatch, the correspondent explains that it was not a "dialogue in the true sense of the word", because the participants could not speak to one another, but only through the moderator.

At the beginning of the debate, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman is asked about "charges in the Egyptian media" that he is "taking advantage of his stay in the United States to finance and assist the "fundamentalist movement" in Egypt. 'Abd al-Rahman explains that he is used to hearing "numerous accusations" in the media which lack "any lawful basis of evidence." Answering the financing charges, 'Abd-al-Rahman says: "I challenge them, and continue to repeat the challenge, to produce any check, checks, check numbers, or any evidence proving this issue."

In answer to another question regarding examples of Islamic rule in Iran and of Islam, 'Abd-al-Rahman explains that Islam, contrary to what the "secularists" say, does not need a "theory" or specific solutions to rule, because such things exist and are included in the Koran, the Prophet's traditions, and the "great Islamic heritage", adding that Islam ruled the world for 10 centuries.

Asked by an unidentified listener on his view regarding attacks against tourists and whether they conform to the teachings of Islam and another question from a different listener on whether it is true that the U.S. Government is asking him to leave the United States and has revoked his green card, 'Abd-al-Rahman affirms that "there is no democracy in the Arab world in general." He adds: "As for the question of the Islamic Group's use of violence and weapons, the Islamic Group uses violence only in response to the violence employed by the state." Turning to attacks on foreign tourists, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman says: "We use force with tourists. Tourists must be ethical and conscientious of the country's traditions, customs, and Islamic system. Tourism is not nightclubs, alcohol, gambling, adultery, or such things. If they follow ethics, they will be respected and treated well, but not if they go [to Egypt] with such manners and spread AIDS and the corrupt morals with which they have filled Egypt."

Regarding his residency in the United States, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman says: "Undoubtedly the Egyptian Government is the one that influenced the U.S. Government. But the fact is that until now, the U.S. Government has not spoken to me directly, but there is a case before the judiciary."

Asked by the moderator about reports that he did not divorce his wife in Cairo and on whether he is violating U.S. law by taking an American wife and residing in the United States on this basis, 'Abd-al-Rahman says: "I have not married an American, and have not married at all. I (laughingly) am alone without marriage until now and actually looking for a wife!"

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Condemns U.S., West, Lauds Bush Loss

LD0101131093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1936 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to political science students at al-Fatih University in Tripoli on 31 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the end of 1992, happy New Year, if you are on holiday. The world has become accustomed to considering this a new year in order for the whole world to chronicle history. Its origin is not like this, or why was it created? Regrettably, the Christian states do not pay attention to the festivals of the Arabs and the Muslims. They do not even greet the Islamic states on the occasions of their festivals such as the new hegira year or on the advent of Muharram, while the Arabs exaggerate in courting the friendship of Christian states on the occasion of the birth of Christ, his circumcision, and all these things. They send greetings and celebrate them. Regrettably, it seems that the world is heading toward Christianity, at least in terms of customs and traditions. [passage omitted]

Those Christian customs have invaded the world. Even you in Libya observe Christian customs. First you celebrate Christmas. This is true. I found coffee houses, hotels, and restaurants devoting a special night to celebrate the festivals of the Christians, whether Christmas or the New Year. We said this should not be allowed. Welcome to Christ, but when they start celebrating Muhammad, we will celebrate Christ, although they do not even recognise Muhammad as a prophet. [passage omitted]

What I want to say in this respect is that the outgoing year, from my point of view, differs from all the years that Libya has lived through, with the exception of the period of colonialism, the years of Spanish and Italian colonialism, the vandals or Roman invasions, those previous colonialist periods. It was remarkable in Libya's modern history. [passage omitted]

Some events took place in 1992 that were an opportunity for them to say that 1992 might be the year to exploit and achieve victory after their endless attempts against Libya, which continued for well over a century. I mean that this period of 24 years of struggle against colonialism cannot be separated from the colonialist campaigns against North Africa, whether in 1800 or 1805. They were similar to the confrontation in the Gulf of Sidra. There was a battle in Tripoli, and there was a battle in Derna. They ended on 11 June—the same day the Americans came to Libya—11 June 1805. This is written in history books. On 11 June 1805, the last battle in Derna took place. The Americans were driven off Libyan shores. On 11 June 1970, the evacuation of the American forces from Libya took place. The date was not planned. The date was accidental. It was the same day—the day they left Derna well over a 100 years ago or 170 years or 150 years—when they left for the second time.

What I am trying to say is that the period of 24 years that has passed is, from a historical aspect, nothing but a ring in a chain of struggle between the East and the West or the North and the South or between the major powers and the peoples who aspire to liberation. [passage omitted]

They all were attempts to annex Libya to Europe, to annex North Africa to Europe, to impose European control over the southern shores of the Mediterranean. They did not concentrate on Libya only. Egypt experienced the same thing. It was exposed to the same thing. When the revolution broke in France, it was a revolution of liberation, equality between people, fraternity and freedom. But for us they reversed these when the the matter concerned us. [passage omitted]

All these were links in the same chain. Always, Europe's objective and the objective of the West has been to control the East and North Africa, and all the Mediterranean, to control the trade routes; to control oil. Each stage had a strategic aim. In the past, it used to be trade routes. Trade used to be the backbone of civilization. Those countries whose trade routes were blocked were like the countries that today are short of energy. In the name of ensuring trade routes, they occupied Egypt, Yemen, and North Africa. Today in the name of oil they are occupying the Gulf. They occupied Libya, Algeria, Iraq, and the Gulf, (?from Egypt to Iran), Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The occupation continues. With regard to the Gulf, the occupation process continues and the flow of oil to the colonialist states is assured.

The outgoing year about which I am talking was nearly the crucial year as far as they were concerned. They hoped to realize the objective of repeated confrontations with us. It was the first time in our struggle with them, however, that this struggle reached so dangerous a height. It was greater than in 1986, when America single-handedly carried out the attack while relying, of course, on Britain, and on the U.S. bases in Britain, Italy, and the U.S. naval base in Naples, and on the island which we destroyed, the island of Lampedusa.

Last year, however, was more serious than 1986: A confrontation took place between us and America in 1986 before their raids in the Gulf of Sidra, and we shot down five [as heard] of their aircraft there in March when they crossed the line of death. They sank two of our naval pieces in that confrontation, and Libyans and Americans were killed and the waters of the Gulf of Sidra became colored with blood in March 1986.

After that, they fabricated the story of the Berlin club, frequented by hundreds of American soldiers, where there was a dangerous explosion and which they considered a military action. They accused Libya of that and on that basis attacked the Gulf of Sidra and a confrontation subsequently took place between them and us. In their assumptions, it was possible that Libya was taking revenge on that club just as they made assumptions about the Pan Am, Lockerbie, and UTA. These are their assumptions and deductions. They carried out the raid in 1986 and after that when the aircraft crashed in Africa and in Lockerbie, they directly linked them and said that they were a reply to the 1986 raid. Well then, this thus is recognition of the fact that they are aggressors and that there are operations between us and them—this is according to their analyses only. We have no connection with Lockerbie or UTA, or with any of their aircraft wherever they crash.

Despite all that, things did not reach the degree of seriousness they reached last year, although we did not see military parades or direct military confrontations last year like the one that occurred in 1986. Despite all that, the most serious confrontation took place last year because the biggest states on earth reached agreement against the Libyan people for the first time because the Soviet Union, which had existed for 70 years, was absent in last year's confrontation. The Soviet Union had existed for 70 years as a second pole and a deterrent, a nuclear and strategic deterrent, and an ally of the world liberation movement and so on. The Soviet Union was finished in 1990 or 1991, however. When 1992 came, the Soviet Union did not exist and the Western states were free to dispose of the world. America, Britain, and France became the nuclear superpowers with the right of veto.

These three states agreed to accuse and to make very harsh demands on Libya, the most important being that Libya must hand over two of its citizens to America or Britain. Well brothers, at the beginning they that should be handed over to America and be tried there. After a period, they added: or in Britain and the trial of another group accused in the UTA, or what is it called, the American [as heard], their French aircraft which crashed in Niger, i.e., the trial of another group of Libyans in France.

These three countries have the right of veto, are nuclear powers, and have permanent membership on the so-called Security Council. They are Christian and Western countries. Libya's diplomatic relations with two of them have been cut for several years now. They were the only three superpowers on the planet earth. The three of them drafted a list of demands for Libya to hand over its citizens for trial. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak, and this is public knowledge, himself announced through the media, and told me so personally, that America was preparing military action against Libya at the same time that the indictment was being announced. It was quite suddenly that they declared that Libya was behind the bombing of those planes. They connected it all together; because Britain had joined America in 1986 in bombing Libya and killing Libyan children, they said that the Libyans planned this incident to punish Britain and America. [passage omitted]

Well, the suspects are in Libya, because the Montreal agreement allows them to be tried in Libya. This is the essence of my talk to you. This was Libya's reply to the three countries' demand to hand over the suspects. In fact, their demand resembled the demands of the colonialist countries of the 18th or 19th Centuries, similar to the demand they presented to the Turkish sultan to hand over Libya to them, the demand they made to Egypt to surrender to the English, or the demand made by France to the dey [ruler of Tunis in Ottoman era] or bey of Algeria [ruler of Algeria in Ottoman era] to deliver Algeria. It is exactly the same spirit. A demand like this—either to deliver or to bear the consequences. They found a good opportunity in this confrontation. When the airplane incidents took place, they could implicate Libya, send it a warning. Libya would reject it, and they would finish the battle with it, especially because they are taking advantage of world opinion, and there is no deterrent power against them. [passage omitted]

Consequently, they believed that their demand to Libya, in the prevailing international climate, would give Libya no chance other than to kneel, submit, and offer its citizens bound in ropes to American or Britain. We have rejected this demand, irrespective of our analyses of the international situation. This demand is rejected, and we told them that neither international nor Libyan law, nor the Montreal agreement, would force Libya to surrender its citizens. At that moment the Libyan people rose with this memorable historic stance when all the tribes marched toward the tent [al-Qadhdhafi's residence], and all the people prepared to fight, that is, at a certain moment the people even left the people's congresses, etc., and were overcome by tribal and clan enthusiasm and Arabism. They got rid of all administrative and political forms, and everyone wanted to prove that his tribe, clan, or family was prepared to sacrifice blood and lives. [passage omitted]

While the Western countries were preparing their offensive, unilaterally and in violation of UN and international law, thereby terrorizing nations, positive responses in favor of the Libyan people and against those Western countries came pouring in. What happened then was that they resorted to using the United Nations, as they felt that if they were to attack Libya or confront it on a one-to-one basis their barbaric operation would be a failure. It was condemned internationally, and could have led to revolution or rebellion or uprising in the Arab and Islamic worlds. [passage omitted]

Terrorism would not end with the Pan Am or the UTA aircraft. Other cases of terrorism have occurred since then and other planes have been brought down. Only a few days ago a Libyan plane crashed—the incident is currently under investigation—and the incident could not be considered any different from the Pan Am and the UTA incidents.

If this crash was due to a navigational error, an error by the control tower, or to a shortage of equipment—so that it was not possible to estimate distances, altitudes and speeds, etc.—or due to a defect in the aircraft, all this could be attributed to the Western countries' ban on spare parts for Libyan aircraft. It is a crime that they committed. In this way, they would thereby have responded to the Pan Am and the Lockerbie incidents. It is as if they had passed judgment, and therefore the case was settled. They convicted Libya and they downed one of its planes in exchange for the bombing of the plane, for which they accused Libya. This is how it looks.

If it was an act of sabotage, the West would still not be free of suspicion, because it happened on the same date as Lockerbie. It would either be the work of Western intelligence services, who would have put their agents to work as a reply to Lockerbie, or it would be revenge by the Irish Republican Army because Libya, presumably, had abandoned it and passed on information about it to the Western states, and to Britain in particular, so the Western countries would still bear responsibility.

The causes behind the Sidi Al-Sayeh [Libyan plane crash site] incident could not be outside these three causes, which put the full responsibility for this heinous crime on the West. If it was due to a shortage of spare parts, the West would be the culprit because it was the West which banned spare parts for civilian planes. They were cautioned that the Libyan civil aviation was liable to meet with such a disaster if the spare parts boycott was maintained. This warning, made by Libyan airlines to the world and the United Nations and to international civil aviation (?authorities) was and will again be made public to the world—that, under these circumstances, something like this was expected. [passage omitted]

If the crash of the Libyan plane is due to the activities of intelligence, the West would be directly responsible; even if it is the work of the IRA, the West would be the cause. In other words, it is a cowardly, despicable, and barbarous act, no matter who exactly executed it, because in the final analysis the West bears the responsibility for it. The case is clear now, and the West is guilty. [passage indistinct]

As for the air embargo, the spare parts, and the siege of Libya from a technical point of view, this is official and public. The Western governments sign this resolution every day, and at each step they sign the renewal of this embargo in connection with the spare parts.

Who would still buy a Boeing, a plane from the West, a tank, a single weapon, or even a power plant? Anyone who continues to deal with the West is stupid as long as the West behaves like this. And the West indeed is behaving like this—selling you equipment and then imposing sanctions on you. [passage omitted]

Who would still buy a weapon or a civilian airliner from the West? The aircraft that crashed was a civilian airliner that was purchased from the West. Who would buy them again? Are we going to buy an aircraft from them? This is impossible. Are we going to buy a ship from them? Never. Are we going to buy a power plant or a factory? They would sell them to us, then impose an unjust embargo on us, like this embargo. [passage omitted]

When the Western countries withhold spare parts from civilian airliners in this way, countries will not buy these aircraft, because political disputes between the countries of the world can break out at any time. If we link civilian aviation, electricity, electronics, and science and technology with political differences, there will never be any trust in science, in technology, or in commercial dealings, because in politics reactions are continuous. We are friends today, but enemies tomorrow. We are enemies today, but friends tomorrow.

It is stupidity on their part to thrust these issues into the dispute, but they have done so, and they will lose. We will not buy this, and we will spread the idea of no confidence in the West throughout the Third World. We will convince the largest possible number of people not to deal with the West in order to besiege it and in order that it fails to find markets. We merely are a consumer market for it. [passage omitted]

They have adapted the Lockerbie case in a false manner and said that it is to be presented to the UN Security

Council. O people, this is an ordinary, criminal case. Ordinary persons are accused of a criminal, civil crime. It absolutely does not fall within the jurisdiction of the United Nations. Yet, they said that the United Nations must be compelled to convene and discuss the issue.

When the first road was closed to them in the face of the Libyan people's readiness to die, the Arab nation's readiness to stand by the Libyan people, and the readiness of all other peoples to stand by the Libyan people, they were embarrassed. So, they decided to use the UN [words indistinct].

They put the same demands to the Security Council, and asked it to approve these demands, to tell Libya to comply. They used to simply tell Libya to comply with their demands; now they go to the Security Council and say: You, the Security Council, must tell Libya to comply with our demands.

In fact the Security Council encountered some difficulty. Within the Security Council there naturally are some states like India and China that have some weight and respect; there also was an Arab member on the Security Council and two African states, and some states that are not spiteful toward Libya to such a degree, and that have interests with Libya and some closeness with it and that need it. When they looked at things, they said that we cannot say to Libya: Hand over your two citizens to stand an American-British trial. On what pretext can this is be done? The latest thing is the Montreal Agreement, which says that they can be tried in Libya, America, or Britain, but that it is not in a compulsory manner. They said: We can say that Libya must comply with the demands of these states and we will add to it matters related to legal investigations.

The Western states found it difficult in fact to pass their resolution as it was, and which says that the Security Council orders Libya to hand over its citizens for trial. The Security Council said: We cannot say something like this; this is not in the Charter at all and we cannot say that. We can say: Libya must comply with the Western states' demands. However, we must clarify the demands which are formulated by the Security Council and which consist of cooperating with the legal investigations. The Security Council's resolution thus does not stipulate handing over citizens, but says that Libya must cooperate in the investigation in order to uncover the truth, and this is what Libya is following.

Libya set up a court and [word indistinct] and said: Please come and participate with us in the investigation. Whoever has evidence should put it forward, and whoever has a witness should bring him forward. Libya also has announced its rejection of terrorism time and time again, and has said that Libya cannot be a terrorist state. Revolution, liberation, and independence are one thing, terrorism is another. We do not need terrorism. It is our right to live with all merit on the earth and under the sun. This does not need terrorism. [applause and chanting]

They decided to transfer the case to the Security Council and the latter adopted it in the way that I mentioned. The Security Council's delegates and those of other UN member states which participated in the debate spoke and said: We cannot set a dangerous precedent, which is to force one state to hand over its citizens to another. We cannot establish this principle; this is a dangerous precedent. We say, however: Libya must comply with these requirements with regard to the legal investigations. This is Libya's explanation of Security Council Resolution 731, which is that Libya must comply with the demands of the three Western states with regard to the legal investigations, and Libya is complying with these demands related to carrying out legal investigations. [passage omitted]

Libya has enjoyed calm, patience, and bravery throughout this difficult year, which has passed and in which we fought on all fronts—the media, political, economic, and psychological fronts—until we reached the point when the U.S. Republican Administration came to an end.

Actually, the results of the American elections showed the emergence of a new page and a new stage in the world. We toiled and persevered, we mustered our courage, and we stood our ground until the Republican era, the era of the American Republican Party, had ended. It used to antagonize us. It took part in the aggression against us in 1986. We persevered with patience and courage for four more years after the Republican Party had been in power. We used to say: It will only be four more years and the U.S. Republican administration will come to an end. We were expecting Bush and not Clinton to win, with the Republicans thus continuing in power for four more years. We said: Well, we will have to endure another four years until this American nightmare is over.

But thanks be to God, what happened during one year of patience, courage, resistance, flexibility, and wisdom? The results of the American elections were announced. They spelled the end of the Republican administration with the Democrats scoring a victory. We and the world which is on our side believe that the American Democratic Party will lead America, America's foreign policy, in the opposite direction to that of the Republican leadership.

In the Reagan era, America began to lose its direction. It made historic mistakes, gripped by recklessness and a lack of foresight. Or, predicting the results of its action, it showed a lack of concern over the interests of the American people, wasted resources, was spendthrift, threatened others and intimidated them. The results were that the official figures for unemployment in America, inflation, the high cost of living, the suicide rate, and diseases were on upward trend, triggering the red light and alerting the entire American society, which began to say: This policy spells danger, and the American nation and the American people, because of this imperialist foreign policy, are being driven to disaster.

When Clinton emerged along with the Democratic Party, he started to say that America must be saved, that one had to look inward, that the American wealth must not be wasted on imperialist policies, that half the American forces in Europe should be brought home, that the military bases should be wound up, and that Reagan's Star Wars program must be abolished. As opposed to all these absurd actions and trivialities of Reagan—the imperialist policy, the military forces, spending money on agents, the hireling governments, and the American intelligence service—Clinton said that we must concentrate on the U.S. economy and on the American citizen and that the house should be owned by the one who lives in it.

He raised slogans like these and said that a political revolution should take place in America to make America look inward and that the American people should be saved. American education was neglected, the economy was declining, health was going down, and morals also were taking a dive.

No attention was given to any of these things. The attention was given to spreading the U.S. imperialist policy of world domination. When the American people heard these slogans, they completely changed direction and moved toward Clinton and the Democratic administration. They voted for Clinton. This showed that the American people are not hostile by nature and that the American citizen is an ordinary citizen; he is simple and he looks after his own interests and he wants peace. They used to be forced to do things against their will and to pay taxes against their will because the regime was dictatorial.

They have elections, parties, and a head of state who controls all the power and who could dismiss parliament and who uses the right of veto. Any head of state can dissolve parliaments. It is not right to dissolve a parliament that has been elected by the people, for it to be dissolved by a president or a king. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the president was given powers under which he used the emergency law. Reagan persisted in his use of the emergency law because he thought that the foreign interests of the United States were threatened by Libya's action. Today the Americans are puzzled. They say: Is it conceivable that a small state like Libya—with 2 million people who are preoccupied with their work and their farming and fishing and who are trying to make a living—threatens the interests of the United States of America? Reagan was laughing at us as he was assuming powers to use them as an absolute dictator.

There is no democracy at all, but dictatorship. When somebody came to say to the American people that his slogans and policies were inward-looking and they served the American citizens, they all were joyous. They said: Thank God we are free. There is no Star Wars program, no American troops in Europe, no more American bases in the Philippines, no interference in the affairs of others, and no world policeman. This resulted in the American people giving their votes to the president who raised these slogans. Clinton won and the Democratic administration succeeded. The whole world believes that America will change during the era of the Democratic administration.

The Democrats originally consisted of minorities, the oppressed. We have been defending these people during the Reagan era. Because of this, Reagan's vengeance against us increased, because we used to back the blacks, the Red Indians, the minorities, the workers, and the oppressed, who actually were the foundations of the Democratic Party.

In actual fact, the force that formed the Democratic Party to which Clinton belongs, this force actually is our ally. When it was in opposition, we used to back it.

We thank God for this result and give a deep sigh and the whole world feels really satisfied. I told you this earlier—the French president raised his voice and said no. This never happened at the time of the Republican administration. He used to say yes, whatever the American president said; that is, he would be happy. Now he says no, and some states say no. I say that this stance should be recorded in history, i.e., the stance, the fight, is not always with firearms. No firearms, i.e., fighting is used as a last resource so that an aim is achieved if all other means fail. Your failure in other means is what compels you to the last barbaric resource, which is war.

When the Western states flex their muscles and their fleets, and when Reagan used military force, this is proof of his failure and he has no right or justification—this is nothing but terrorism. With the latter you can compel somebody who is in the right and make him give up his right. This does not mean that you are in the right. The matter is just terrorism; however, the other means are the ones that must be valued. [passage omitted]

If the United Nations is used from now on according to its Charter and injustice in it is ended, and the right of veto at the Security Council is reconsidered—and it must be—and becomes just, and the UN Charter is respected, is relied on, and there is a real recourse to it to solve conflicts and prevent any aggression by the powerful against the weak, affiliation to the United Nations and the payment of contributions will be made to it, and its arbitration will be sought and one will rely upon it. If there is, however, a continuation of the distortion and exploitation of the United Nations and peoples become unequal before it, and the right of veto continues as it is, we say that the United Nations will not continue and peoples will not continue their membership in it, and the first will be the Libyan people, who will fight with force so as to leave that organization, and not only the Libyan people, i.e., all peoples will leave the United Nations, which will be finished. Come what may, the responsibility for the tragic consequences will then be assumed by the one who has abused and scorned the United Nations and made it sink so low.

You must learn this in political science. Look at the UN Charter—it does not discriminate between one people and another; all peoples are equal. Now peoples are not equal, and as for the right of veto, the United Nations has been put under the control of one state. One Western state can use the right of veto and cancel the United Nations completely. [passage omitted]

The United Nations is now at the crossroads: Either it is as it should be, and all peoples in it are equal, or it will be finished, and we will be the first to hold high the banner of its dissolution and the scorn for it. It is not possible for us to accept that the United Nations is turned into a knife and a sword, which will be put to our throats and with which we will be slaughtered. What is taking place at the moment is that they want to turn the United Nations into a sword that is put to our throats. Our rejection is in this respect: we have the right to defend ourselves and we do not want a sword to be put to our throats. [passage omitted]

What you hear about what is happening in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Serbia, Somalia, Mozambique, and all the other states, and Liberia, is because of the imperialist policies of Republican America, and this new state is not responsible for it.

You can see the game in Somalia: There is a resolution under the name of the United Nations to intervene, and then there is an independent intervention of American forces—the UN forces will be a synonym for them or on their [word indistinct]. They intervene under the name of the United Nations and wear UN berets and are under UN command. If this is not the case, then it is a non-UN intervention but some other personal intervention, the responsibility for which they must assume.

The American forces in Somalia have now become forces of repression, colonialism, and abuse, which is addressed to every Somali, and if Somalis are Arabs it is addressed to every Arab. Every morning they are kicked by American feet, and slapped. As soon as an old man, a child, an imam, a woman, a respectable man, a judge passes on the sidewalk, the American soldier slaps him on the face and kicks him, and says to him: Return to where you came from. It is not allowed to take a walk, to move, or take this or that direction. [passage omitted]

What is taking place now is not a matter of the United Nations intervening in Somalia; it is about American forces intervening in Somalia. Why is that? They are perhaps preparing them for Yemen or Sudan. Well, why did such a decisive intervention as the one that took place in Iraq and Somalia not take place in Yugoslavia? First, Yugoslavia is a European state, and the peoples are European. There is some compassion toward them, not like with the Somalis or the Yemenis, Iraqis, or Libyans. Let these go to hell; these are from the despised race. Despite the fact that they are spiteful to Yugoslavia and they want to make it pay for leading and setting up the Nonaligned Movement, Tito's stance and his leading the Third World and the Nonaligned Movement—there is naturally revenge against Yugoslavia and they are making it pay and are settling an old score with it. At the same time, it is a fact that the Yugoslav peoples are European peoples and they must be dealt with with compassion and respect, up to a certain point, before they are dealt something bad.

You have seen the hesitation in Yugoslavia; they are not making decisions about anything or able to send in forces. Why did they not send American forces into Yugoslavia? They sent UN forces—you see them on television with the initials UN, that is, the United Nations, not the initials USA, the United States of America, but UN, the United Nations. This means that they are UN forces, but in Somalia you will not see the initials UN. Do you see the initials UN on cars, other vehicles, and people? No, you will find the initials USA. In Iraq it is the same, and if they come to you here they will bear the initials USA, but in Yugoslavia it is UN, or if another problem emerges in Europe, they will send UN troops. [passage omitted]

Paper Advocates Reconsidering Aid to IRA

LD0201142393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1205 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Jan (JANA)—The newspaper AL JAMAHIRIYAH today writes that, since being abandoned by the United States, which has started to tackle its own domestic affairs and the problems facing its economy and citizens, Britain has now adopted terrorism against Libya.

In a leading article entitled "British Terrorism Against Dialogue," the newspaper adds that Britain took this course of action while Libya was offering all the information it has about the Irish Republican Army [IRA], a step which was detrimental to this just cause.

AL JAMAHIRIYAH further says: "In view of this, the Libyan people is required to reconsider the matter of supporting the IRA, even if it means making donations to this just cause. This is especially true because the decision to abandon the IRA turned to our disadvantage and caused us undue embarrassment when, in order to spare more bloodshed and try to prevent further casualties among the people of Ireland and Britain, we ignored the principles of the charter on the Proclamation of the People's Authority. In this document, the Libyan people are enjoined to defend freedom and support liberation movements everywhere.

The paper goes on to say: Domestic British problems are mounting, but the Tory party clique continues to espouse terrorism and engage in it day in and day out under the pretext of unfounded justifications and claims which have been stirred up by historical complexes. They still deal with human beings on religious grounds as though King James I were still ruling Britain. Mention of his name reminds us that he told the Irish in 1607: If you want to remain loyal to the Pope instead of the British Crown, you can go half naked.

The paper adds: That is how the Tory government prefers to deal with peoples who aspire for cooperation.

brotherhood, security, and peace. Hence, that is how the British Government prefers to deal with the Irish.

However, the Irish are, in the words of the Irish Poet William Butler Yeats, enthusiastic nationalists and romantic poets. The policies being imposed at gunpoint by British terrorism can clearly be seen in Ireland, whose inhabitants are quite different from the British. They have their own historical roots and customs; even their language is different.

In Ireland, Britain is still practicing terrorism, despite the fact that the cause of the Irish Republican Brotherhood [19th century precursor of the IRA], which is a name that the Irish like to hear and use for the IRA, is a just cause which has left its mark on human history.

This organization is endeavoring to liberate its country from foreign occupation. It obviously has no intention of occupying Britain, but Britain is interfering in Irish affairs and is stubbornly refusing to recognize that the Irish have a right to self-determination.

If Britain had left Ireland alone, there would have been no casualties in the first place. However, since British occupation and terrorism are continuing, and since Britain still refuses to concede the liberation of Ireland, this naturally makes the continuation of counteraction necessary. Therefore the moral, human, and legal responsibility for the killing of innocent people lies with Britain alone, because it was Britain which started everything, and secondly because it is continuing its colonialism, terrorism, and (?distortion) of facts.

Official British terrorism is bound to generate continuous opposition. Indeed, the father of James Gary, a 19 year-old Irish youth who was killed with a number of other youths [words indistinct] by the British Army aboard a Land Rover, was right when he said: "If no one does anything, there will be hundreds or thousands of people who suffer the fate of my son Gary."

Paper Supports IRA, Scottish Nationalists

LD0301154293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli 3 Jan (JANA)—AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR asserts today that Libya's policy of using wisdom, calm, and consideration in resolving the Lockerbie crisis with maximum self-restraint might have cost the lives of 157 persons in the crash some days ago of the Libyan Arab Airlines' plane. The paper goes on to say in an editorial entitled "100 Years of Rancor": At one time there were indications that (?the crash) was caused by an act of sabotage which might have been carried out by the IRA because the Great Jamahiriyah gave information about them to Britain and stopped aiding their bid to liberate the northern part of their country from British occupation.

This followed a British request through a number of channels, including UN agencies; the Jamahiriyah was urged to sever all links with international liberation movements, under the pretext that such movements, according to the new world order and according to Britain, are sources of international terrorism.

The paper points out in this context that the Jamahiriyah is a freedom-loving country which carries its banner and defends it at all venues. It also points out that we are convinced that the aims and means of the movements in the eighties and nineties are a natural continuation of the international liberation movements of the fifties and sixties which led to the creation of more than two thirds of the present members of the UN.

Despite all that, the Jamahiriyah decided to sever ties with international liberation movements, including the IRA. What is more, Libya closed the file of the International Islamic Call [al- Daw'ah al-Islamiyah], and froze all its activities within Arab and international revolutionary committees.

Libya went even further when it announced its readiness to welcome international neutral commissions to see for themselves that Libyan soil is free of the camps that Britain alleged are housing what it labels as terrorists.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR says: "Following all this, we hoped that the door of serious dialogue with the West would open, since we were successful in exposing its pretext for not engaging in this dialogue. The surprising thing, however, is that whenever we open a door for dialogue, they open doors for threats. Whenever we seriously respond to their needs by severing ties with peoples' just causes like that of the IRA, the West, especially Britain, goes further in its extremist hostility against us, to the extent of launching a war of starvation by imposing the economic and technical sanctions.

When we abandoned our natural ally, the Irish people, whose cause is similar to that of the people of Palestine, Britain opened its doors to those who flee from and are opposed to the system of the masses and the people's freedom.

When we expressed our readiness to turn the pages of the black book of hundreds of years of anti-Libyan and anti-Arab aspects of British policy, Britain became active in encouraging other countries to sever relations with us.

The vessel has been filled to the brim. The patience of Libyans had been exhausted by a sterile policy which has not produced any positive results. What have we gained from abandoning the Irish? Did we, by pursuing that policy, serve our interests or those of Britain? How can we persuade Libyans to accept British conditions [words indistinct] so that we can reject the charge of terrorism made against us and help solve Britain's problems, when in return Britain tightens its grip and sanctions on us and kills our children? This is lunacy.

As a free Libyan citizen, I see that my decision is in my own hands and not in the hands of any other human being. Therefore, I support a call for a meeting of the basic people's congress [words indistinct] to adopt a resolution against this high level of uncontrolled hatred and hostility from Britain against them.

It is Britain which is sheltering terrorists who oppose the stability and security of many nations, including Libya. [Words indistinct] they will ally themselves with Satan in order to serve their own interests and suppress policies which do not serve toe their line. Why cannot this right be claimed by others?

As long as Britain is bent on allying itself with our enemies and is against Libyans, their livelihood, their future, and the safety of their children, I see it as our duty to do the same to them and to cling to our alliance with Ireland's revolutionaries, who are fighting for freedom.

The world has acknowledged Ukraine's independence from Russia and Croatia's independence from Serbia, so we should strive to get the world to recognize Ireland's independence and unity .

We are advocates of nationalism and we like to see it everywhere. Indeed, the Scottish nationalist movement is worth looking at. I think we should sympathetically look at its call and understand the motives behind its demands for independence. If we recognize those of British origin who became independent from Britain two centuries ago in the United States, why should we not recognize Scottish nationalism or Irish nationalism and their right to independence and revolution as we approach the threshold of the 21st century?

I call on the basic popular congresses to reexamine their policy, because it is in Britain's interest and not in ours.

Libyans [words indistinct] should strive to promote a united pan-Arab stance toward Britain—the state with a black past and a blacker present.

Yemeni, Omani Ministers Cited on Border Issues

PM3112114092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani report: "Al-Iryani: We Wish To Conclude Integrated Border Agreement With Saudi Arabia"]

[Excerpts] Muscat—Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has said that there will be no compensations for the Omani Government or Omani citizens for the areas whose ownership was transferred to Yemen after the signing of the border agreement between the two countries. He attributed this to the "reconciliation and brotherhood achieved in relations between Oman and Yemen, which eliminate the need to compensate any party for anything." And he emphasized his country's wish to secure an integrated agreement on land and sea borders with Saudi Arabia.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, who described the border treaty between the two countries as "an event which will not be repeated," announced that the two sides agreed during the visit to form a higher ministerial committee. [passage omitted]

The Yemeni minister stressed the importance of the border negotiations between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, saying that his country wishes to secure an integrated agreement on land and sea borders. "We do not want to divide the border issue, agreeing on one part today and disagreeing on another in the future—which could lead to instability." He pointed out that the joint Yemeni-Saudi committee, which has held three meetings, the most recent of which was in Sanaa on 28 November, is preparing and defining the two sides' position on all the borders, both land and sea. He said that the committee will hold a meeting next month to complete the technical aspects of the negotiation process.

The Yemeni minister gave indications of "flexibility" in his country's negotiating position on the border issue when he emphasized that "everything is negotiable as long as there is a desire for a solution and as long as there are good intentions between the two sides." [passage omitted]

The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs emphasized that contacts are still continuing between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] despite recent statements by the Abu Dhabi summit and Tehran arising from the dispute over the three UAE islands. Asked whether the hard-line language used by the Iranian president represents the beginning of a phase of deterioration and confrontations between the two sides of the Gulf, he told AL-HAYAH: "The two countries are continuing their contacts to secure a mechanism that would enable them to reach an agreement within the framework of good-neighborliness and bilateral cooperation." He expressed the hope that the dispute would be resolved and the two countries' efforts culminate in success. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Ministry Cites Bush on Praise of Armed Forces

LD0101215793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1842 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 1 Jan (KUNA)—American President George Bush today expressed his admiration for the Kuwaiti armed forces and their determination, and the effort made in rebuilding the armed forces in Kuwait.

A Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense statement says that President Bush made his comments during his visit to the UN forces deployed in Somalia, who were lined up to welcome him. The statement points out that in a conversation with members of the Kuwaiti force participating in the UN forces in Somalia, President Bush praised the determination of the Kuwaiti people to participate in human relief aid in all fields.

The statement also notes that President Bush expressed his hope to pay a visit to Kuwait soon. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Ministry Releases Statistics on 1992 Economy

LD0301145793 Riyadh SPA in English 1236 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh Jan 3, SPA—The value of the Kingdom's exports in 1991 amounted to SR [Saudi riyals] 17,897.4 million. This figure constituted an increase of 7.6 percent compared to the value of the exports in 1990, said a statistical bulletin released by the Department of General Statistics at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

The bulletin pointed out that the value of the non-petroleum exports in 1991 amounted to SR 15,317 million. This figure constitutes a drop of 4.6 percent compared to the value of the exports in the previous year.

The value of the chemical and plastic exports amounted to SR 9,029 million, said the bulletin.

Regarding the imports, the bulletin said the value of the food stuff imports in 1991 increased to SR 14,159 million from SR 12,617 million in 1990.

The value of chemical imports increased from SR 9,955 million in 1991 from SR 8,369 million in 1990, while the value of the imports of clothes and fabrics increased to SR 9,169 million in 1991 from SR 7,947 in 1990.

But the value of the imports of medicines dropped from SR 2,380 million in 1990 to SR 2,324 million in 1991.

The value of the imports of timber and timber-made products increased to SR 1,564 million in 1991 from SR 1,249 million in 1990.

The value of the imports of gold and jewelry dropped from SR 6,213 million in 1990 to SR 5,531 million in

1991, while the value of the imports of iron and iron produts increased from SR 7,830 million in 1990 to SR 9,931 million in 1991.

The bulletin noted that the value of the imports of electrical appliances and equipment jumped to SR 21,115 in 1991 from SR 14,776 million in 1990.

The value of the imports of cars and parts also jumped from SR 7,955 million in 1990 to SR 11,177 million in 1991.

In the field of the equipment of the other transportation facilities the bulletin said the value of their imports increased from SR 10,515 million in 1990 to SR 11,691 million in 1991.

The value of the imports of the other commodities increased from SR 10,287 million in 1990 to SR 12,265 million in 1991.

In 1991 the U.S. topped the list of the exporting countries to the Kingdom. It was followed by Japan, England, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, South Korea, China and Taiwan.

Yemen

'Foreign Quarters' Said Behind Assassinations

NC3112154492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1256 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Sanaa, 31 Dec (MENA)—MENA has learned that the investigations by the Yemeni security agencies have proved that foreign quarters are behind the recent assassinations of some political figures in Yemen.

Investigations into Wednesday's bombings in Aden indicate that the leader of the terrorist groups that are trying to spoil security and stability in Yemen is a person named Usamah Bin-Ladin. He is behind the assassination attempt against 'Ali Salih 'Abbad, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the party's first secretary in Abyan Governorate. Bin-Ladin is also responsible for the bombings of two grand hotels in Aden yesterday. An Austrian tourist and a Yemeni worker were killed and five other people were injured in the attacks.

Assassins From Sudan-Financed Islamic Jihad Group

PM3012124392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Lutfi Shatarah and Hammud Munsir report: "Twenty Jihad Organization Members Arrested in Yemen"]

[Text] Aden, Sanaa—Yemeni security sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that they have arrested 20 people suspected of involvement in recent acts of violence and assassination attempts, one of which was aimed against Salih 'Abbad "Muqbil," member of the Yemeni Socialist [YSP] Party Politburo and his organization's first secretary in Abyan Governorate, last week.

The sources pointed out that the detainees admitted belonging to a group known as the "Usamah group" from the "Islamic Jihad Organization." And they confirmed their involvement in an assassination attempt against Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the YSP Politburo, over five months ago.

The security forces have imposed tight security around al-Masafi Hospital, where Muqbil is being treated. Visits cannot be made without official permission from the political security department. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP and vice president, visited him three days ago, after the suspects were arrested.

Security organs delayed the announcement about this group and just now leaked information that its members had entered Yemen at the beginning of last year and that they had been under surveillance since that time. Muqbil said that the aims of the network and those behind it were known to the YSP. He added that the elements which tried to assassinate him come from various Yemeni governorates, and that their schemes include similar operations throughout Yemen to undermine national unity and obstruct the elections.

Security sources revealed that the "Islamic Jihad Organization" has branches in other Arab states, including Egypt, that its leadership is in Khartoum, and that it is financed by a prominent Arab businessman currently residing in Sudan. The sources pointed out that members of the organization's branch in Yemen received their training in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The sources said that the suspects confessed that the leadership based in Sudan purchases the arms—automatic rifles, dushka [as transliterated], 75-mm guns, RPG's, pistols, bombs, and incendiary explosives—from Djibouti and Somalia. These arms and munitions are transported by boats owned by the organization to other Arab states via Port Said, Port Sudan on the Red Sea, and the Arabian Sea.

The suspects said that the arms are smuggled into Yemen via al-Khawkhah on the Red Sea and Ahwar, al-Maqatin, and Hadhramaut on the Arabian Sea. Investigations have revealed that the Jihad Organization is characterized by a "delicate cluster" structure comprised of cells not exceeding five members and that there is a strong link between the military leadership of the Yemen branch and the political and military leadership of the main organization in Khartoum. Confessions included the information that camps are currently being set up in some Yemeni governorates on orders from the leadership abroad and that there is a military center on Jabal al-Saqif in "Bilad al-Maraqishah" in Abyan Governorate. Security organs are continuing their inquiries to detect the activities and whereabouts of this new group.

Al-'Attas on Discovering Forces Behind Sabotage

JN0101183893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has urged all political forces, social figures, tribal chieftains, and all citizens to take the proper positions to confront everything aimed at fomenting sedition and disturbing peace and stability. He noted that the main features of the conspiracy targeting Yemen, its unity, and its democratic march have begun to be exposed.

In a telephone conversation with the program Second Radio at noon today, the brother prime minister said he hoped that 1993 will be a year of breakthroughs and stability and of affection and solidarity among all political forces and among the people's masses, so that a free and democratic atmosphere may be created to allow the holding of free and honest parliamentary elections on 27 April.

Brother al-'Attas deemed the unearthing of the forces behind the acts of sabotage targeting Yemen and its stability a good sign ushered in by the year 1993. He urged all political forces, security organs, and the political leadership to take a common and firm stand to expose these gangs and their conspiratorial schemes and to take stringent measures against those who are tampering with Yemen's security. He praised citizens, their constant vigilance, and their willingness to help security men, noting that promoting national interest is the duty of all and that the prevalence of security is in the interest of all.

Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas maintained that there are wide vistas for development in Yemen, particularly in the aftermath of the new and successive oil discoveries, which require constant work, perseverance, the creation of a stable security climate, as well as the enhancement of national unity.

Chairman Salih Receives Iraqi Vice President

JN3112182892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, accompanied by brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, today received Iraqi Vice President brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, who is currently visiting our country. Ramadan conveyed to the brother chairman a message from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on fraternal relations, as well as developments and issues of interest to the two fraternal countries and the Arab nation.

During the meeting, they reviewed and discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them. They also discussed developments in the Arab arena.

Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan briefed the brother chairman and his deputy on the situation in Iraq in light of the economic blockade imposed on it and the resulting suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people.

The brother chairman expressed our country's solidarity and appreciation—leadership and people—for the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the suffering resulting from the economic blockade imposed on them. He explained that the economic blockade is no longer justified in view of fraternal Iraq's compliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. The brother chairman affirmed that the current overwhelming world changes require Arab leaders and citizens to work sincerely and honestly to close Arab ranks to achieve our nation's aspirations for progress, security, and stability, and to protect its sovereignty and stability. He pointed out the need to rally all Arab efforts to restore the indispensable Arab solidarity, particularly at the current stage, which is witnessing growing challenges to our Arab and Islamic nation.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister; brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of civil service and administrative reform; Salih Abu-Bakr Bin- Husaynun, minister of oil and mineral wealth; Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al- Faysal, under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, and Dr. Muhsin Khalil, Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Omani Minister of Petroleum Meets Salih

JN0301135793 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen, has received a letter from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id regarding bilateral cooperation in the areas of oil and minerals. The letter was handed over by Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, minister of petroleum and minerals, when he called on the Yemeni president at noon today. The meeting was attended by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, Salih Abu-Bakr Husaynun, Yemen's minister of oil and mineral resources, the Omani ambassador in Sanaa and the Yemeni ambassador in Muscat, as well as the delegation accompanying the minister of petroleum and minerals.

Fundamentalist Leader on U.S. Troops in Somalia

NC0101210993 Paris AFP in English 2026 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Aden, Yemen, 1 Jan (AFP)—A key Yemeni Muslim fundamentalist leader on Friday criticised his country for giving facilities to U.S. soldiers taking part in the Somalia relief effort as 100 of them left the country.

The soldiers, who were in Yemen since mid-December, were in charge of fuel supplies for American transport aircraft that stop in Yemen on their way to Somalia.

They left the southern city of Aden on Thursday night for an unspecified destination after bomb attacks targeting hotels where they lodged, civil aviation sources said.

Political sources linked their departure to bomb attacks on Tuesday at two Aden hotels, including the Aden

Hotel where the soldiers were staying. Police blamed Muslim fundamentalists for the bombings.

Three people were killed and six wounded in the explosions, including Austrian tourists, but none of the soldiers was hurt.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid Zandani did not discuss the bomb attacks but he told the Saudi newspaper ASHARQ AL-AWSAT, in an interview published Friday, that he saw no reason for the deployment of U.S. troops.

"Why can't the Americans go directly to Mogadishu?" Zandani asked. He said the "pretexts" given by the authorities who agreed to allow the U.S. troops stop in Yemen were "not convincing." Zandani accused the government of "practices and initiatives which undermine Islam" and charged that Yemen's Constitution also violated the teachings of the Koran.

The Constitution was adopted in May 1991, one year after the unification of north and south Yemen.

Zandani chaired this week a rally of 120,000 Islamic militants who called on the authorities to enforce the implementation of Islamic shari'ah (law) and to ban the construction of churches and synagogues in the country. Islam is the state religion in Yemen but it is not rigidly observed.

Al-Sha'if Explains Unity Conference Walkout

PM3012143192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Lutfi Shatarah and Hammud Munsir report: "Al-Sha'if Pulls Out in Protest, Condemns Reform Party's Domination and Party Disagreements"]

[Excerpts] Aden, Sanaa—The characteristic aspects of the "Unity and Peace Conference" currently being held in Sanaa have been disagreement and disunion—which has become a chronic phenomenon in Yemeni political life. Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Naji Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sha'if, member of the Yemeni House of Representatives and son of the chief of the the Bakil tribe (the second largest Yemeni tribe), pulled out of the opening session of the conference the day before yesterday, immediately after Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, chief of the Hashid tribes and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, delivered his speech on behalf of the Yemeni tribes.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Shaykh al-Sha'if criticized Shaykh al-Ahmar and said: "We pulled out because we had not assigned Shaykh al-Ahmar to speak on our behalf, and because it has become clear that the conference expresses the Reform Party's view." [passage omitted]

Shaykh al-Sha'if spoke about the reasons for the disagreement between his father and Shaykh al-Ahmar, saying that "the disagreement between my father and Al-Ahmar is not ideological." But al-Sha'if believes that "partisanship in Yemen has achieved nothing and will achieve nothing. In fact it will worsen the situation." He added: "What have the opposition parties achieved since the establishment of unity? And what have the two ruling parties done for us? They are still in disagreement." He criticized the opposition parties, describing them as "decor for the authorities" and saying that they will offer nothing except calamities to Yemen." [passage omitted]

He denied the existence of any secret deals between his father and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] to exploit the present disagreement between Al-Sha'if and Al-Ahmar, whose party still has a dispute with the YSP. He said: "We do not support the YSP. But, like others, we agree and differ on some matters. The same applies to the Reform Grouping and the General People's Congress. And we openly tell the YSP, the Reform Grouping, and the Congress: If they have not already ruined the country, they have not reformed it."

Minister To Discuss Plane Downing at Conference

JN0101159393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA)—Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki and a delegation left for Tunis today for a conference of Arab interior ministers. The conference is set to begin there on Monday.

The Iraqi delegation is to stress the need to guard against the threat posed to Arab sovereignty and security by foreign infiltration.

In a statement to INA, al-Maliki said he will urge joint Arab action in the areas of security and the fight against crime.

The minister said the Iraqi delegation will expose all forms of interference in domestic Arab affairs, citing the sustained American aggression on Iraq and the criminal downing of an Iraqi aircraft in Iraqi airspace.

Newspaper Comments on Bush's Somalia Visit

JN0401094693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper has once again denounced the U.S. invasion of Somalia being carried out by war criminal Bush under a humanitarian cover.

In an article today, the paper, which speaks for the Defense Ministry, said that Bush—this sadist who is imbued with a criminal spirit and taste for killing—did not find anything with which to end his damnable era except the invasion of a weak, poor nation to flex his muscles under the gaze of the world, even when he is dying.

The paper adds: Bush has mobilized his soldiers, aircraft, aircraft carriers, warships, and submarines to invade the land of the weak nation of Somalia, after having spread dissension, hunger, and disease in it to provide justification for his invasion and occupation. He did this so that he can afterward hatch his plots against neighboring countries, and thus subjugate the entire African continent and build bridges between all his agents via the Red Sea to make sure that those downtrodden nations would not cause him any trouble.

Noting Bush's visit to Somalia at the beginning of the new year, the paper says: Protected by U.S. troops, Bush strutted in front of television cameras on the soil of occupied Somalia, and started launching threats against Iraq. It is as if Bush is trying by invading this country to regain respect for his defeated self in the face of the steadfastness and struggle of the Iraqi people, which has reached its peak and become a living example for nations struggling to attain independence.

The paper adds: Bush showed no shame, nor batted an eye while making threats citing Security Council resolutions against Iraq. At the same time, Bush is powerless and complaisant toward the fact that all international bodies are unable to implement a small part of these resolutions against the Zionist entity, whose arrogance and barbarism against the defenseless Palestinians who were thrown into the open without any legal grounds were denounced worldwide.

The paper stresses that Iraq will continue to fight tyrants and invaders and the depraved individuals who harmed and destroyed Iraq, its people, and soil.

If criminal Bush, while in his death-throes, is trying to imitate famous invaders in history, then there is no doubt that he has outdone them in depravity and vileness and that his end will be similar to theirs.

The paper explains that Iraq will remain great with its people, unique leader, glorious history, and unparalleled sacrifices, which have left their mark on humanity at large in terms of Iraq's civilization and scientific achievements, which led mankind out of darkness and barbarism and allowed it to perform its humanitarian role.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms that the threats made by Bush and his stooges will not harm any zealous Iraqi. Bush knows that his experience with the Iraqi people has caused his downfall and perdition.

UN Chief's 'Credibility' on Deportees Questioned

JN0101193593 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali says the Palestinian expellees must be allowed to go back even if they are housed in camp tents in the occupied territories. We have no quarrel with the part of Butrus-Ghali's statement calling for their repatriation to their homeland, but certainly we cannot stand for them to be made refugees in their own homeland. Why should any Palestinians be accommodated in special camps, and how could they be detained in their own homeland? As if existing lockup facilities housing hundreds of thousands of our people are not enough. As if the curfews, sieges, economic blockades, collective punishment, home demolitions, and daily massacres that our people are having to suffer are not enough. Now, a novel form of punishment is being proposed—internment camps for expellees.

We should stand firm against any conditions being attached to our sons' return to their homeland. They are not political fugitives; the land and the homeland are theirs, and so no conditions whatsoever may be placed on their presence in their homeland and in the midst of their people.

If the UN secretary general has any concern for international legitimacy, he should, rather than propose that our people be housed in secluded tent camps in their own country, promote a resolution that the Zionists will be forced to observe, and not turn the other way from

Zionist recklessness and defiance. If the UN chief thinks that the expellees must be repatriated, he may as well act on his words. The credibility of both Butrus-Ghali and the United Nations is at stake. The United Nations will have to be a truly world body, or, declare itself to be a tool in the hands of the United States and the Zionists to advance their interests and designs.

Saddam Said Massing Troops, Artillery in South

NC0301170593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Opposition sources have affirmed that tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime is escalating its oppressive operations against the citizens in the south after his forces resumed their attacks on numerous villages, burning down all the houses and evicting the residents. The sources said in a statement today that the despicable regime is massing a large number of troops backed by artillery and tanks around the southern marshlands to resume the annihilation attacks against the citizens there. The sources added that the regime's heavy artillery continues to shell areas close to the marshlands around the cities of al-'Amarah and al-Nasariyah. The objective is to scatter the residents and force them to leave their homes and property.

Opposition sources said that the residents who have been evicted by Saddam's forces from their residential areas are currently suffering from acute shortages of foodstuffs, medicines, and fuel for heating.

Southern Areas Mined as Residents Flee Floods

LD0301215293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime has planted mines on the routes taken by hundreds of families living in the southern regions of that country who have been forced to move on because of the danger posed by a rise in the level of the river waters.

According to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, up to now dozens of people have been killed in these minefields—most of them women and children. The residents of southern Iraq and some parts of al-Basrah Province have, during these past few days, been forced to leave their houses and dwellings because of the prospects of floods and because of serious food and fuel shortages.

In the past few days, Saddam's regime has sought to eliminate the vital resources of the residents of southern Iraq by flooding large areas of agricultural land in this region.

Border Forces Command Mission Decreed

JN0301130293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The Revolution Command Council has issued a decree stating that it shall be among the tasks of the Border Forces Command to protect the Republic of Iraq's border with neighboring countries, to combat infiltrations and smuggling from and into Iraqi territory, and to protect state and private property and installations in border areas against any trespass. The decree states that it shall be among the duties of the Border Forces Command to organize and control arrival at and departure from Iraqi territory through border posts.

The decree stipulates that the rules of Amended Military Service and Retirement Law No. 1 of 1975 and all laws and regulations that cover Army personnel shall apply to the personnel of the Border Forces Command covered by the Internal Security Forces Amended Service and Retirement Law No. 1 of 1978. This includes both those who are currently enrolled in this command and those who will be transferred to it after the enforcement of this law. [passage omitted]

Opposition Reportedly Launches Attacks on Regime

LD0301135993 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan. 3, IRNA—A battalion of the 49th Brigade of the 14th Army of Iraq has been attacked by Iraqi revolutionary Muslims, an Iraqi opposition source told IRNA here Sunday.

The source said that eight Iraqi soldiers were killed during the attack launched last Friday. He added that several other military forces were killed or injured in another attack on the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Brigade, stationed in al-Dorah region in the suburb of al-Mahmunah and on the 471st military unit.

The Iraqi combatant forces, the source continued, in another attack on a police station in al-Zubair, al-Basrah Province, inflicted material losses and killed three security forces.

The popular resistance forces, in retaliation for the savage acts of the Iraqi regime, set on fire the headquarters of the ruling Ba'ath party in al-Madinah, al-Basrah Province, the source said adding that most party officials were in the building when the fire broke out but that no report is yet available on the number of casualties.

According to yet another report, 11 loaders and four bulldozers were destroyed in the recent attack on the engineering units based in al-Amarah road.

In another report by the Iraqi opposition, the revolutionary forces in an attack on a patrol boat last Thursday in al-Hutah region, al-Basrah Province, destroyed the boat and killed four of its passengers.

Iran Killing Fish on Border To Tighten Blockade

JN0101113393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has said that the Iranian regime is carrying out a campaign to kill fish in the al-Huwayzah marshes, so as to contribute toward tightening the food blockade against Iraq.

In a statement to INA today, the source said that the Iranian regime has been carrying out a campaign to kill fish in the al-Huwayzah marshes, which are adjacent to the Iranian border.

The source added that Iran sent infiltrators who used large quantities of poison and harmful substances to kill and poison a great number of fish in the area to deprive residents and contribute toward the tightening of the food blockade on Iraq.

Kurdish Council's Memo to Turkey, Syria, Iran

NC0101101493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1617 GMT 30 Dec 92

["Text" of the memorandum addressed by the Iraqi Kurdistan National Council to the parliaments of Turkey, Syria, and Iran on 25 December—read by announcer]

[Text] Honorable brother members of the parliament of the Turkish Republic; honorable brother members of the People's Assembly in the Syrian Arab Republic; honorable brother members of the Islamic shura council in the Iranian Islamic Republic:

Following the holding of parliamentary elections in Iraqi Kurdistan, the formation of a government in the Kurdistan region, and our declaration of Iraqi Kurdistan as a federal region within a united, democratic, and federal Iraqi Republic as the best form of relationship with our Arab brothers in Iraq, a clamor was regrettably raised, and is still continuing, in certain circles of your governments. It claims that our decisions constitute a danger to Iraqi unity and security and stability in the area. Your governments called for the Ankara meeting, to be followed by another in Damascus, to study the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan. This campaign and the misunderstanding of the issue make it incumbent upon us to present the following facts to you:

1. It is the press of the dictatorial regime in Iraq that is sustaining this clamor. This regime has never been a factor of stability in the area. It has conspired and is still conspiring against your countries. It has trampled upon the international conventions regarding human rights in Iraqi Kurdistan and the rest of Iraq.

2. The dictatorial regime persisted in its criminal policy against our people, a policy applied to the land and people. It has wiped out complete towns and more than 4,500 villages and killed tens of thousands of people with chemical weapons in Halabjah, (Wadi Barisan,) (Bahdinan,) and other places. The fate of 182,000 people in the ill-famed al-Anfal operations and 8,000 Barzanis is still unknown. Millions of people were also forced to leave their homeland. The regime also withdrew all its administrations in the region, creating an administrative and economic vacuum and the ugliest siege in the region. It deprived our people of the simplest needs of daily life, such as fuel, medicine, and food, and the simplest requirements of education and culture.

In view of this situation, our people had no alternative but to exercise their right to hold free democratic elections under the supervision of international observers who testified to their honesty. They elected a National Council for Kurdistan and a regional government was formed. We regard all this as some of the simplest legitimate rights of any people in the world to fill such a vacuum.

3. The suffering of our Kurdish people as a result of the chauvinist, racist, uncivilized, and undemocratic policy applied by the dictatorial regime in Iraq and this policy's denial of all human values and principles of human rights have led to the weakening of Iraqi unity, which must be built on the basis of selective and free union, not on the policy of annihilating our people. This is what prompted the National Council of Iraqi Kurdistan to declare Kurdistan a federal region within a united and indivisible democratic Iraq. The dictatorial regime subsequently launched a campaign to frighten your governments, claiming and warning that this danger could cause instability in your countries.

4. We have declared, and we declare again, that this step is unitary and not divisive. For example, we ask: Is the establishment of the United Arab Emirates, which is considered a federation of several emirates, designed to divide the emirates? The federal system in Switzerland has strengthened the unity of three peoples, German, French, and Italian. The Swiss federation was not occupied during World War II when the French, Italian, and German Governments were in different axes, but Switzerland declared its neutrality in the war. Why should federalism in Iraq be a factor for division and threat to Iraqi unity, given that Iraq is inhabited by two main people who coexisted for many years with national minorities, such as Turkoman, Syriacs, and others. They were all bound together by ties of common struggle. The blood of the Iraqis was mixed in numerous revolutions and uprisings in defense of Iraqi territory and its sovereignty. They were also bound together by ties of common Islamic religion, history, and culture.

5. We have openly announced and always announce that we are working together with the forces of Iraqi opposition for a united, federal, and democratic Iraq that will build balanced good- neighborly relations with all the neighboring states and not be the extension of one state at the expense of another.

6. We in Kurdistan are working for strengthening and maintaining good-neighborly relations with Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. We do not interfere and will not permit interference in the internal affairs of the neighboring states in any way. The relations of these states with members of the Kurdish people in their territories are their affair. Our National Council emphasized this fact in its session, but we do not conceal our desire for these states to solve their problems with our Kurdish brothers in the spirit of the age, with a civilized, democratic mentality, and on the basis of respect for their national rights like all peoples in the neighboring states.

7. We regard the meeting of the three states, in the absence of representatives of the Iraqi people, the opposition forces, including representatives of our Kurdish people, as interference in the internal affairs of our Iraqi state and the Kurdistan region. We announce to you that we are ready to hold talks and reach an understanding with any parliamentary delegation from your countries to strengthen friendship with your governments and peoples. We also affirm to you that we will defend the rights of our Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan. We assure you that all honorable people who adhere to democracy and human rights in your countries and the entire world support our just cause.

8. In the name of the National Council of Iraqi Kurdistan, we invite a parliamentary delegation from your countries to visit the Kurdistan region to acquaint itself, through contacts with the official and public circles, with the facts, which we hope will be our sublime goal.

Please accept our thanks and appreciation.

[Signed] Najad Ahmad 'Aziz Agha, acting speaker of the National Council of Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Dated] 25 December 1992.

Pro-Government Kurdish Official Assails Party

JN0201142793 Baghdad INA in English 1345 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 2, INA—Mr. Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, chairman of the Executive Council of the Autonomy Rule Area of Kurdistan, described the so-called projects to substitute the autonomy in the area as imperialist means to undermine Iraq's unity.

In a statement published today by AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, Mr. al-Barzanji said talks about a confederal government or any other system was fully rejected by Iraqi Kurds who regard autonomy as the basic and right form for maintaining the country's unity.

Mr. al-Barzanji accused party leaderships in northern Iraq of betraying their people and increasing their suffering, pointing out that foreign protection of those elements confirmed that the countries of aggression were using them to carry out their plans in the region.

He denounced the Turkish Government's stance toward the issue of Iraq's integrity, stressing that extending mandate of foreign troops in Turkey is a hostile action contrary to the unity of Iraq.

Kurdish Leader Barzani Receives SAIRI Group

JN0301183293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani yesterday received a delegation of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraqi [SAIRI], led by His Eminence Shaykh Abu-'Ali al-Mawla, official in charge of the SAIRI Executive Committee; His Eminence Shaykh Hammudi, political adviser to His Eminence [SAIRI leader Muhammad Baqir] al-Hakim; and Mr. 'Adil 'Abd-al-Mahdi.

They discussed relations between SAIRI and al-Hakim, on the one hand, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party and brother Barzani on the other. They also discussed the Iraqi people's struggle in Kurdistan, the south, and other areas of Iraq. They considered ways of promoting ties between the two sides, the conditions of the Iraqi opposition, and the possibility of improving these conditions in a way conducive to realizing its aims.

The meeting was attended by Nashirvan Barzani.

Relief Aid Convoy of 25 Trucks Arrives in Irbil

NC0201171093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] A convoy of UN relief aid arrived in Irbil today. The convoy, which consisted of 25 trucks laden with foodstuffs, was escorted by two UN vehicles carrying UN guards to protect the convoy and prevent the Iraqi regime's forces present at certain inspection points from stopping the trucks and replacing their drivers.

Ramadan Comments on Recent Visit to Yemen

JN0201153393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, personal envoy sent by President Saddam Husayn to his brother Yemeni Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, returned to Baghdad yesterday at the end of a three-day visit to Yemen.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY upon his return, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: Our visit to the Republic of Yemen was successful. We discussed with brothers there fraternal bilateral ties, means to enhance them in all spheres, the current Arab state of affairs, as well as the colonialist designs which imperialist powers seek to carry out to fragment the Arab homeland and lay obstacles in the way of the nation's unity.

Ramadan added: We were pleased by the fraternal Yemeni leaders' thorough understanding of the dimensions of the imperialist conspiracies being carried out against the Arab nation's masses and their nationalist forces. Similarly, we were gladdened by the immense and excellent efforts being made by Yemeni leaders to consecrate Yemeni unity and repulse and thwart all evil attempts to undermine this national accomplishment, which has been realized thanks to the Yemenis' endeavors, as well as those of their nationalist forces.

Ramadan went on to say: We also informed our Yemeni brothers of Iraq's constant readiness to meet Yemen's needs in terms of the necessary technical assistance and consultations in all spheres so that Yemen's potential for development and progress may be enhanced. We also briefed them on what the Iraqi mujahidin have accomplished in terms of the miraculous accomplishments scored in the course of the endeavor to rebuild all that was destroyed during the treacherous aggression. Furthermore, we informed them of the great and large-scale accomplishments undertaken to enhance Iraq's development and achieve progress rapidly, despite the extraordinary circumstances being experienced by Iraq, namely, the continued aggression against it and the continued enforcement of the embargo on it.

Taha Yasin Ramadan noted that he had met with leaders of some Yemeni political parties and national forces during his visit. We discussed with them, he added, the areas in which we could enhance bilateral cooperation to foster a unity of views and close the doors and loopholes to the conspiracies targeting the Arab nation, particularly the malicious plots targeting Yemeni unity.

Controversy Over Palestinian Deportation Continues

Shin Bet Had Called For Deporting 7

TA3112092192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Dec 92 pp A1, A10

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Eytan Rabin, and Shlomo Shamir]

[Excerpts] The Shin Bet had recommended to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that only six or seven Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists be deported, and the top Shin Bet men were surprised when they learned of the prime minister's decision to deport more than 400.

According to a senior government source, the Shin Bet presented a recommended list of six Hamas political leaders and operatives, and added another name when asked to expand the figure. Following Rabin's orders, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was tasked with preparing the final list without considering the initial recommendation of the professional authority, despite the fact that the Shin Bet is in charge of collecting data on the operations of Palestinian organizations in the territories.

Yesterday, the defense establishment began examining whether another Hamas activist had been deported by mistake. The IDF spokesman did not respond to questions on this issue. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent an urgent letter to U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger last night. This came in the wake of incoming reports that the United States might support the convening of the UN Security Council for another discussion of the deportee issue. In his letter, Peres warns that another UN debate might make the Arabs assume a more extreme position, which might have a negative effect on the peace process.

Over the past few days, the United States has continued pressuring Israel to find a solution to the deportee problem. The Americans suggested that the deportees be moved to the security zone until their petitions are brought before the appeal committees. Israel has not rejected the offer, but a political source said that the fact that the deportees and their families have so far refused to file appeals precludes the implementation of the U.S. proposal.

At the same time, Jerusalem is expecting developments on the issue within the next 48 hours. Among other things discussed yesterday was the possibility that the Norwegian UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] contingent, stationed in the security zone, provide aid to the deportees. Israel has so far not accepted this offer, but the possibility that Rabin will accept it should not be ruled out. [passage omitted]

Peres on Deportees

TA3112173392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today assessed that continued pressure on Lebanon by the United States and the United Nations would eventually resolve the affair of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. As for negotiations with Syria, Peres said that to the best of his knowledge, the Israeli Government had not held any secret contacts with the Syrians. The foreign minister met with Arab affairs correspondents today. Our correspondent Eldad Beck reports.

[Begin recording] [Beck] Shim'on Peres rejected the idea floated over the past few days by attorneys representing the deportees. The plan includes Israel permitting the return of several dozen deportees, even if this means their incarceration in Israeli prisons, enabling negotiations with the Palestinians in February to resume.

[Peres] The deportations have already been implemented and the way to appeal the deportations is through individual petitions. This avenue is open to all those who were deported and if there are people who are innocent, for example, they can appeal, but only on an individual basis. This is an acceptable legal option, and anyone who thinks he was wrongly deported or discriminated against can appeal.

[Beck] The foreign minister believes that the deportees' situation is complicated by Lebanon's rejection of Israel's proposals. The deportees' own refusal to leave their improvised camp in southern Lebanon for any destination other than their own homes, can be resolved through continued pressure on Lebanon.

[Peres] Look, right now both the United Nations and the United States have issued simultaneous and parallel appeals to Israel and Lebanon. Israel said yes, whereas Lebanon said no. Continued influence or pressure must be exerted on Lebanon. There is no reason to rush things just yet.

[Beck] The heads of the Jewish settlements on the Golan Heights have reiterated their claims that Israel and Syria have reached political agreements on the future of the Heights in secret meetings that were held between representatives of the two countries in Europe. Peres replied that to the best of his knowledge, no such meetings took place. If so, what is the source of Jerusalem's recent optimism regarding the possibility of reaching an accord with Syria in 1993?

[Peres] In my opinion, we have to consider the statements recently made by Syrian officials outside of Washington as well as the negotiations in Washington. One can notice certain encouraging developments on their part.

[Beck] In other words?

[Peres] There is more readiness to talk, and a greater readiness to resolve the conflict between us. [end recording]

Rabin Calls For 'Reciprocity'

TA3112202192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has reiterated that Israel is determined to allow the passage of an International Red Cross [IRC] convoy to the deportees only on the basis of reciprocity; namely, only if a supply convoy simultaneously departs from Beirut.

It has been further imparted to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz on behalf of the prime minister that this stand does not contradict Israel's consent to allow representatives of international organizations to escort the 10 deportees who have been allowed to return to established transit points.

Court To Rule on IRC Convoy

TA0101054493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Israel will respond to the International Red Cross on the aid convoy to the deportees only after a High Court of Justice ruling on the appeal by Knesset Member Darawshah on the issue, our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports.

The prime minister made it clear last night that Israel is firm in its position of permitting passage to the aid convoy only on a reciprocal basis—in other words, only if an aid convoys leaves simultaneously from Beirut. [passage omitted]

Rabin Rejects IRC Bid

TA0201182893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met yesterday with the International Red Cross [IRC] representative in Israel, and rejected that organization's request to allow doctors and mail to reach the deportees in Lebanon. The prime minister reiterated Israel's position that it would only open up its territory to the IRC, if Lebanon agrees to do the same.

Escort Allowed for 10 Deportees

TA3112172292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is willing to allow the International Red Cross [IRC] or any other international body to escort the 10 deportees who have been allowed to return after their deportation was proven to have been a mistake.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF will consent to one of these bodies' representatives in Lebanon escorting the 10 to one of the following crossing points: Bayt Yahun, Tibnin, Hamra', or any Israeli border checkpoint, such as the Ben-Gurion Airport.

Some Expelled by Mistake To Return 3 Jan

TA0101082593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] The Red Cross representative in Judaea and Samaria has informed the families of the 10 deportees mistakenly expelled to Lebanon that they will be returning 3 January. This was reported by Sa'id Ma'adi, Qol Yisra'el's Arabic correspondent.

The Prime Minister's Bureau said last night that Israel does not oppose international organizations accompanying the 10 to the crossings on the border of the security zone.

Red Cross Denies Report

TA0101122593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] The state attorney's office says the lives of the deportees are not endangered, so it calls on the High Court of Justice to reject outright the appeal by Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah to order the government to permit the International Red Cross to send supplies to the deportees. Nili Arad, director of High Court of Justice matters in the State Attorney's Office, bases herself on an affidavit provided by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch that the deportees are receiving regular supplies and their lives are not endangered.

The International Red Cross [IRC] denies reports published this morning that the organization's representative has informed the families of 10 Palestinians deported by mistake that they will return on 3 January. The IRC representation in Tel Aviv told our correspondent Dan Eshel that it is still awaiting a response to a suggestion presented to the prime minister.

Majority Opposes Aid for Deportees

TA0101091193 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jan 93 p 1

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute under the management of Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Text] Question: Should Israel allow or not allow the International Red Cross convoy of supplies and medicine for the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees to cross through the security zone in south Lebanon?

Allow—32 percent; not allow—68 percent.

Question: Should Israel agree to the PLO participation in the peace talks?

Should—47 percent; should not—53 percent.

Question: Are you pleased with the fact that Yosi Sarid has been appointed a cabinet minister?

Pleased—44 percent; not pleased—43 percent.

The poll was conducted on 29 and 30 December with 523 interviewees constituting a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel, with the exclusion of residents of kibbutzim.

U.S. Thwarts UN Condemnation

TA0101060893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Gad Ya'aqobi, Israel's ambassador in the United Nations, by Washington correspondent Arye Golan, on 31 December—recorded]

[Text] [Ya'aqobi] The fact that the Security Council concluded its session without any further condemnation of Israel is doubtlessly an achievement and shows that there is a tendency in the Council to await the UN secretary general's report following envoy Jonah's mission to the Middle East and also to give quiet diplomacy a chance to try various possibilities. There is no doubt that a condemnation was avoided mainly because of the steadfastness of the United States in the face of the nonaligned; very moderate wording by the Council president; and of course the work by our Washington embassy, by Israel, and by the Israeli mission to the United Nations with all the Council members, especially with the president and the U.S. delegation.

[Golan] But the question is what happens after Jonah presents his reports, since we are expected to get hit on the head again.

[Ya'aqobi] If the situation remains as it is now, and I only say that to be precise, then we can assume that after Jonah's report is presented to the secretary general and then to the Council members, which is likely to happen after 5 January, the Security Council will convene. If there is no change in the situation, it will discuss ways—mechanisms and agendas—of implementing the Council resolution. Since we are talking about a week or perhaps even longer, then even that can change as a result of political circumstances and contacts, or changes in the field. In the mean time, a condemnation of Israel has been avoided, and the bloc that wanted to denounce Israel has been defeated. An embarrassing situation has been avoided, while Jonah's mission continues in the Middle East. I view that as a definite political achievement for Israel, which is quite rare in the Security Council on such sensitive issues.

Conditions Set for Deportees' Return

TA0101180093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] In an interview with 'Adi Talmor on IDF Radio's weekly newsreel "In the Current Situation," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for the first time expressed readiness to shorten the deportation period of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in Lebanon. The prime minister made shortening the deportation period conditional on the cessation of the intifadah and a halt to terrorism and violent activity by all the Palestinians in the territories. He also demanded that they concentrate exclusively on the peace negotiations. Prime Minister Rabin said that the Palestinians' readiness to accept these terms must be announced by what he called the leaders of the PLO supporters and the leaders of the Hamas. Here are Yitzhaq Rabin's statements.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] We will not return them to Israel.

[Talmor] Under any condition?

[Rabin] Let there be no misunderstandings. If things remain quiet in Israel for 40 months then it will be a different story. Forty months is three years. I will go even further: if someone who is really in charge comes and promises me that the intifadah, violence, and terror on the part of all the organizations will stop for 18 months, or for one year, and that they will concentrate on the peace negotiations, then I will consider the deportees' early return. This, however, under one condition: that this promise will not be not just idle talk but will follow a test period of at least six to nine months of calm, in which there will be no intifadah, violence, or terror activity either within the territories or from the territories to Israel's sovereign territory.

[Talmor] This is the first time that either the public or myself are hearing that there may be conditions under which you would be prepared to bring the deportees back to Israel.

[Rabin] I am saying this because I virtually consider it a pipe dream.

[Talmor] What about the technical aspects of this matter, since I assume that your remarks are being keenly followed? Would you be satisfied, for example, with a declaration by the Hamas leaders, although you consider this a pipe dream?

[Rabin] If the leaders of the PLO supporters or the leaders of the Hamas were to come and promise—and issue a public declaration—to the effect that they promise peace and quiet, and call for a halt to the intifadah—and if they would pass the nine-month test period—I would bring the deportees back sooner. After nine months, I would start bringing back 100 deportees each month.

[Talmor] All of them?

[Rabin] Yes. [end recording]

The full interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the deportations, the peace negotiations with Syria, and more will be broadcast tomorrow at 0900 GMT on IDF Radio.

'Ashrawi Calls Proposal 'Unfeasible'

TA0101180793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] We received the first Palestinian reaction to the prime minister's remarks from Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesman for the Palestinian delegation. 'Ashrawi said that this was not a realistic proposal, and added that even while speaking, Yitzhaq Rabin had probably known it was completely unfeasible.

'Ashrawi also told our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal that the intifadah could not be stopped because, among other things, it was impossible to control the actions of every individual Palestinian in the territories. 'Ashrawi said that it appeared that Rabin's remarks stemmed from his realization that the deportations had been a political mistake.

Hamas Deportees Reject Conditions

TA0201121693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees have rejected Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to reduce their deportation term in return for a termination of the intifadah.

Their spokesman said that Rabin's refusal to allow the deportees back will only exacerbate the uprising in the territories. He stressed that the intifadah will continue as long as occupation remains in force.

'Threat' to Lives To Be Examined

TA0101195793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] The State Attorney's Office today informed the High Court of Justice that the Israeli Government would examine any appeal by the International Red Cross that indicated a threat to the lives of any of the deportees in Lebanon.

Our legal affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad reports that in its reply to the appeal submitted by Knesset member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, the State Attorney's Office asserted that the deportees do not require any aid at this time, since local villagers are supplying them with all their needs.

Attorney 'Imad Dakkur from Tarshiha, who represents the appellant, said this evening that he was waiting for the hearing at the High Court of Justice to see whether the State Attorney's Office had broken the commitment it made to the High Court of Justice to hospitalize the sick deportees.

Prime Minister on Deportations

TA0201102293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by 'Adi Talmor; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Talmor] Shalom Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, and a happy new year.

[Rabin] Shalom to you and our listeners. I hope the new year will be better than the previous one.

[Talmor] Is the Israeli Government close to an agreement on principles with Syria?

[Rabin] I cannot give clear, definitive answers. I know for a fact that Syria is a partner whose president is a sovereign leader, but only the future will show how he will answer the questions we posed after adapting our stands to a certain extent. We should remember that the Arab world's perception of negotiations with Israel is based on the premise that the United States should play a central role, because only the United States has the power to elicit Israeli concessions. The Syrians, as well as the other Arab delegations, are therefore waiting for President Clinton's inauguration, after which they will be able to examine his approach, his...

[Talmor, interrupting] Yet, we have been hearing about things happening these very days.

[Rabin] Such as?

[Talmor] There are rumors, reports about clandestine negotiations between us and the Syrians outside the framework of the Washington talks.

[Rabin] These rumors are totally unfounded. Until now, our negotiations with Syria have been and are conducted between our and the Syrian delegations in the framework of the Washington talks. Peace is the issue at stake, and if you want to know something, I wish the Syrians were indeed willing to hold direct clandestine contacts with us in different channels, on other levels. But we have not attained that as yet.

[Talmor] And yet, you announced this week that any Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights will consist of the Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] withdrawal from the Golan Heights and will not necessarily involve the uprooting of Israeli settlements.

[Rabin] I beg your pardon, what I said—and it is a shame reporters sometimes fail to listen properly and thus distort my remarks—what I told Golan settlers and what was stated in talks with the Syrian delegation in Washington was that to achieve peace with Syria, Israel is prepared to implement Resolutions 242 and 338; that this will mean withdrawal of IDF troops on the Golan Heights to secure and recognized borders; and that we will not agree to negotiate the territorial scope of withdrawal before Syria answers two Israeli questions: What is the meaning and the substance of peace? Does it stand on its own two feet? I have never said anything other than what we had decided, other than our messages to the Syrian delegation, other than my remarks to the Golan settlers.

[Talmor] But the Golan settlers had difficulty in understanding the meaning of the term: IDF troops' withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

[Rabin] I did not say from the Golan Heights, I said on the Golan Heights. There is no need right now to explain my remarks to them in Kibbutz Ortal and our statements to the Syrians. This is the Israeli Government's stand.

On one occasion I added that I am the first prime minister willing to consider implementing Resolutions 242 and 338 in our negotiations with Syria to achieve peace.

[Talmor] The chief Israeli delegate to talks with Syria says in a weekend interview that by April at least an agreement on principles will have be reached between Israel and Syria, and a peace agreement will be almost certainly attained this very year. Do you share these assessments?

[Rabin] I think the chief Israeli delegate to talks with Syria, the man who will be our ambassador in Washington in slightly over a month, was expressing his estimate and, I think, his hope. I will be happy if things develop this way.

[Talmor] Mr. Rabin, two weeks after expelling the Hamas activists, after all the domestic and foreign criticism, can you say the goals of this deportation have been achieved?

[Rabin] I am completely at peace with the decision to temporarily remove over 400 political and organizational leaders and inciters of Hamas. I am convinced it was the right decision. In recent months, Hamas has been the primary terrorist organization perpetrating brutal acts of terror against IDF soldiers and against Palestinians, acts which culminated in the kidnapping and actual slaughter of Staff Sergeant Nisim Toledano. The state of Israel has to react to this kind of terror, first and foremost by action against the radical Islamic organizations—Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. If we want to make progress toward peace, we must be ready to wage an all-out war against terrorism, in general, and fanatic Islamic terrorism, in particular, the latter combining terrorism with an absolute rejection of peace negotiations. In addition to killing Jews and Palestinians, it is attempting to kill peace.

[Talmor] There have been other speculations as to the goals of these deportations. Some said that there was an intention to reinforce the PLO vis-a-vis Hamas, to prepare Israeli public opinion for talks with the PLO and for political concessions to Syria. Were these indeed the goals of the deportations?

[Rabin] Not as far as I was concerned. First, this was not a deportation in the sense stipulated in emergency regulations; it was a temporary removal. We issued a special order removing these people from the territories, from the territory ruled by Israel, for a period of up to two years, with a right of appeal after the fact. It is true that I saw a need to react swiftly, to deal a hard blow to the radical Islamic organizations. There were no reasons other than this main reason. If we truly want to make progress toward peace, to get results, we have to know we will achieve nothing in the peace negotiations, reach no agreements, and also fail to guarantee Israel's security unless we fight terrorism. Peace which does not guarantee Israel's security is meaningless as far as I am concerned.

[Talmor] For that reason, I will repeat my question: Two weeks after the deed, can you say the goal of the removal, or the deportations, has been achieved?

[Rabin] Look, the goal of the removal has been achieved. It is too soon to judge the full import of the removal. I have never deluded myself that by removing over 400 men we will have vanquished fanatical Islam as represented by the terrorist organizations of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, but we have dealt them a blow, a serious blow which I believe will yield results.

True, due to factors which I will not mention....[pauses] We are a law-abiding country, and the government's freedom of action in the sphere of security is controlled by judicial systems just as in other countries, actually more so than in other democratic countries. For that reason, we are still stuck with the encampment, which is situated on Lebanese territory and under the Lebanese Government's control.

[Talmor] And we are also stuck with the Lebanese Government's refusal, which you may not have anticipated based on past experience, when Lebanon did not object to deportees' settling on its territory.

[Rabin] Lebanon never did consent, but when there were nine, 12, or four deportees, they were easily absorbed, and nothing could be done. Of course, quantity has a qualitative impact, and that includes our war against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. The deportation of five out of the 1,200 or 1,400 detained radical Islamic activists would have been insignificant, but the removal or deportation of over 400 people is significant. It is a blow. The delay caused by legal procedures allowed the Lebanese Government to prepare its stand. It would not have been prepared had we carried it out as planned. The delay resulted in a complication, but we will overcome it.

[Talmor] You believe so.

[Rabin] Certainly. [passage omitted]

[Talmor] We discussed the goals of this deportation and the results discernible at this point. What is its impact on the peace process, on the climate surrounding the peace process?

[Rabin] I suggest we do not judge anything on the basis of Israeli newspaper headlines, although the pictures the world has been shown are not agreeable either. I believe the peace negotiations will continue. They definitely will with the Arab countries, but I believe that Palestinians who want to achieve peace will come too, although I do not know whether it will happen in February or March.

I believe that before the bilateral negotiations are resumed, there should be a meeting between the U.S. President and myself, in order to find out to what extent our approaches to peace are compatible.

[Talmor] You still do not know?

[Rabin] I do not.

[Talmor] But you met with him before the elections.

[Rabin] I met with him in August. Once in 1971, when I was ambassador in the United States, I met President Ford—then House minority leader—who made an ardent speech about moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Three years later, I met him in the White House after he had become President and I prime minister, and I asked him: Mr. President, what about your speech three years ago? He replied with a smile: From the Oval Office things look totally different than they do from Capitol Hill.

[Talmor] Before we conclude, Mr. Rabin, allow me a somewhat personal question. Twenty-five years ago you completed your assignment as chief of staff, the Six-Day War chief of staff. What do you feel, looking back on that period from the prime minister's seat?

[Rabin] We did not initiate the Six-Day War. In the circumstances of those days, Israel was forced to go to war. I regarded that as the greatest military victory in the history of the Jewish people in both ancient and modern times. As a result of the Six-Day War, we secured control over territories in which no Jewish state had ever ruled—certainly not to that extent.

I believed then and I still believe that the territories we conquered—but not all of them—provide Israel with a strategic depth it never had prior to the Six-Day War and which it needs as long as there is a state of war. However, parts of the territories can and should be used as a means to achieve peace, to ensure that war and bloodshed come to an end, and to maintain peace between us and our neighbors.

[Talmor] Will Yitzhaq Rabin the prime minister give back territories Yitzhaq Rabin the chief of staff captured?

[Rabin] Of course; I have no problem with that—but not all of them. Everything should be done to prevent a repetition of the precedent of the price Israel paid for peace with Egypt—a territorial price for giving back everything to the last square inch and of destroying the last trace of Israeli presence, including Yamit. I say yes to compromise, but as for total withdrawal, we must do everything possible to avoid repeating the price paid then.

[Talmor] Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, thank you very much.

Attack on Deportees' Camp Denied

TA0301073493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] This is the Israeli Defense Forces' [IDF] response to news agency reports on the shelling of the outskirts of the deportees' encampment in southern Lebanon: An IDF force shot at several suspicious figures moving near the border of the eastern sector of the security zone. The figures were spotted several kilometers west of the deportees' camp. Official military sources stressed that the shooting was not directed at the deportees' encampment.

States View Action as 'Appropriate'

TA0301084393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the situation over the past two weeks proves that Israel was right in its decision to carry out the deportations, and many governments worldwide had reached the conclusion that we had taken the appropriate step.

Rabin stressed that the deportations had dealt a real blow to the Muslim extremists. Our correspondent Mark Weiss reports that the prime minister was speaking at the World Jewish Students convention in Jerusalem.

Cabinet Discusses Deportees

TA0301130693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The issue of the deportees was raised in the cabinet session today, but no decision was made on aid for them or on changing the present situation. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel still makes the transfer of aid to the deportees conditional on a Lebanese agreement to simultaneously transfer aid from its own territory. The cabinet session also heard criticism against President Hayim Herzog for flying to China on Sha'ul Eisenberg's private jet. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Gutman] [passage omitted] The cabinet session dealt extensively with developments surrounding the deportee affair. Security elements and the prime minister reported on the condition of the deportees and the foreign minister reported on the Red Cross proposal for a unilateral Israeli goodwill gesture to transfer humanitarian aid. Despite the fact that Peres supports this proposal, he clarified that he will explain the opposing government position. Prime Minister Rabin reiterated that Israel is demanding a simultaneous Lebanese goodwill gesture in exchange for the Israeli gesture. This is what Minister Moshe Shahal had to say following the session:

[Shahal] I believe that our position on the issue of the deportation is clear, and we must not forget it nor make others forget it. We are dealing here with people whose actions and aims necessitated our action. I don't think that the government can formulate a new position every day regarding this issue. It has made its decision and this decision remains in force. [passage omitted]

[Gutman] The cabinet session also dealt with the concern of the coalition partners regarding the prospect of broadening the coalition base. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Minister Arye Der'i said this does not look like a serious thing.

[Der'i] Since this government was established six months ago it has constantly been busy with broadening or narrowing its base and with appointments. This is not healthy for government work and does not contribute toward the stability of the government's functioning. I therefore believe we must put an end to this. The prime minister had an opportunity to broaden the government, and held negotiations over the last month. Once Meretz voiced its ultimatum totally against it, we should accept the situation and realize that this is the government we have—unless the prime minister wants to change the basis of this government—and I do not think that this is what he intends to do. [end recording]

Appeal Submitted for 23 Deportees

TA0301155893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Another appeal, the sixth, regarding the legality of the deportations was submitted this morning by attorney Jawad Bulus on behalf of 23 deportees from the West Bank. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the appellants claim the deportation orders are illegal, that they are unwarranted from the security standpoint, and that their only aim is to silence the clamor of the Israeli street. All the appeals related to the issue of the deportations' legality will be discussed by an expanded seven-judge panel of the Supreme Court in two weeks.

'Seriously Ill' Can Be Hospitalized

TA0301184793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] The cabinet was told by security officials that not one of the 415 expelled Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists is in danger and that they are not short of food, water, clothing, tents, or heaters.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres briefed the cabinet on the ongoing international reaction to the expulsion and to the television shots of the Hamas camp. He reported that the director general of UNESCO canceled his visit to Israel in consultation with the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. Nevertheless, Peres said, the peace process will continue.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin described the deadlock over humanitarian aid to the Hamas camp as a test of nerves, a test of our staying power. Israel's position has not changed, he said. Israel will agree to the latest proposals of the International Red Cross [IRC], but only if Lebanon also makes some gesture. On one point, there is some confusion in the government's position. The Foreign Ministry spokesman told me Israel was prepared to hospitalize the Hamas activists who are seriously ill at Marj 'Uyun, in the security zone, and this was confirmed after the cabinet meeting by Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Begin recording] [Shahal] In principle, yes, if the IRC will recommend that there are people who are in need to be hospitalized in the security zone of Lebanon, then Israel will make the arrangements to give them this possibility.

[Katzenell] Even without what the prime minister called mutuality, that is, a gesture by Lebanon?

[Shahal] This can be done without mutuality. This is a humanitarian act, and we promised, we gave our declaration to the High Court. We are certainly going to fulfill it. [end recording]

However, the Prime Minister's Office insists that this is also subject to mutuality. Lebanon must make a gesture too. In practice, the hospitalization is unlikely to take place because both Israel and Lebanon have refused to allow the IRC medical team to visit the Hamas camp, so there is no one to establish whether any of the expelled persons are seriously ill or not.

Abu-Jabir on Peace Talks, Deportees, King's Rule

NC0101162093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Dec 92 p 5

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo on 26 December]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] Water may be the reason Israel is keeping the territories. In view of this, some might say that international law is not enough to deal with the issue of using the Jordan River's waters and that there is a need to form a body to undertake a long-term role in planning a policy on water and its uses.

[Abu-Jabir] Water is one of the principal issues in the negotiations. We have rights which we will demand, insist upon, and defend. Don't forget that the water talks are being held at two levels: the bilateral one (Jordanian-Israeli), and the multilateral Israeli-Jordanian-Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian level. If settlement is reached on the water issue, then it will include the entire region. But so far, no one knows how to tackle this issue.

[Al-Sa'id] Despite the many difficulties impeding progress in the peace talks and despite the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members, President Mubarak advised the Arab parties not to boycott the peace talks because it would be wrong and could have grave consequences. What is your opinion?

[Abu-Jabir] President Mubarak's wisdom is highly valued. His views merit respect and appreciation. We in Jordan deeply respect him. The issue of withdrawing from the talks is not under discussion, at least for now. As far as Jordan is concerned, it is insisting on peace and on continuing this process. Like President Mubarak, we believe that withdrawal from the talks would hurt the Arabs.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that the possible collapse of the talks and the resumption of the armed struggle is out of the question?

[Abu-Jabir] Of course it is out of the question now because we are at the start of the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] "Clinton" has said that any peace agreement between Israel and any Arab party requires a high level of security for Israel. What is your view?

[Abu-Jabir] I really don't know which one of us has a greater need for security. Is it Israel, which is armed to the teeth with conventional, nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, or is it we who really need these kinds of weapons, but do not have such an arsenal or guarantees like those given by the United States to Israel? When we hear such statements, we are surprised and ask: Who needs more security arrangements than the Palestinian people, who are dispersed inside their homeland—their own soil—inside Jerusalem, Hebron, Tulkarm, Janin, and Nabulus. These people are dispersed and persecuted in their own land. The world has to face this truth, which we should make evident to it. Evidence of this is the unjust and cruel deportation of 418 Palestinians and the violation of international legitimacy. I ask: Has the world forgotten that these are human beings with feelings, dreams, and families?

[Al-Sa'id] Israeli officials are reiterating that Jordan is the key to the solution for the Palestinian problem and that Jordan is the Palestinian state.

[Abu-Jabir] We could describe this claim as mere hollow words. A look at history prior to Islam shows that there is one thing called Jordan and another called Palestine. [passage omitted] To say that Jordan is Palestine and the key to the solution is a falsification of history and baseless. The Palestinian people are Palestinians and I cannot eliminate their identity with the stroke of a pen. I cannot erase their identity and say they are something else. These are hollow and meaningless words.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the reports that King Husayn will abdicate in favor of the crown prince?

[Abu-Jabir] This is out of the question. His Majesty King Husayn was clear in his recent speech. The speech showed that he has a responsibility and a course he must complete. Hence, words such as those you noted are out of the question. [passage omitted]

PSD Gives Penalties for Violating Arms Laws

JN0301124093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] The Public Security Directorate [PSD] has issued the following statement concerning regulations for the licensing and possession of firearms:

Based on his excellency the interior minister's decision on 1 December 1992 regarding the regulating, licensing, and possessing of firearms, and emanating from the government's responsibility for safeguarding the security and safety of citizens, the PSD announces the following:

1. Since the deadline for licensable weapons (pistols and hunting rifles) expires on 31 January 1993, the PSD calls on all brother citizens to apply at the security centers for licenses for these weapons. After the expiration of the deadline, those in possession of these weapons will be asked about the source of the weapons.

2. All citizens in possession of weapons that cannot be licensed and for which they have not previously held a license should immediately hand these weapons to the nearest security or people's army center within the deadline that expires on 31 January 1993. They will be issued with a receipt in order to avoid legal prosecution. These weapons will be kept in trust by the quarters which receive them.

3. As of 1 February 1993, anyone caught in possession of unlicensed weapons will be considered as having the intention to use them for illegal purposes, as well as illegally possessing the weapons. He will consequently be liable for legal prosecution in accordance with Article 11 of Firearms Law No. 34 of 1952, which stipulates the following:

a. Anyone involved in the manufacture, import, possession, transportation, selling, buying, or acting as intermediary in the buying or selling of any gun or automatic weapon without a license, with the intention of using it for illegitimate purposes, shall be punishable by execution and confiscation of the weapon.

b. Anyone involved in the manufacture, import, export, or attempt to export firearms and ammunition without a license shall be punishable by a minimum of 15 years hard labor and confiscation of the weapon.

c. Anyone who violates any other provisions of this law or any regulations that are issued in accordance with this law shall be punishable by up to three years imprisonment and confiscation of the weapon.

4. All licensed weapons such as rifles and machine guns, which the interior minister decided should be withdrawn, shall remain in the possession of their owners, who will be fully responsible for safeguarding them and for not using them without the knowledge of the PSD until instructions are issued on their future handover.

5. Since all licenses for carrying weapons have been canceled, the PSD calls on all those with previous licenses for licensable weapons (pistols and hunting rifles) to report to the police directorates or the concerned security centers to change these licenses to licenses of possession to ensure the legality of their possession of weapons.

6. Guards and all quarters concerned with protection, who possess licenses to carry weapons due to the nature of their work, should report to the authorities that provided them with these licenses to settle their situation.

The PSD calls on the sons of the one Jordanian family to cooperate with it by rapidly implementing these instructions within the set deadline so that it will not have to prosecute violators. The PSD will take all measures to ensure the collection of weapons as well as the prosecution of those who do not hand them over, wherever these weapons may be.

Port, Cargo Losses Detailed Due to Iraq Sanctions

JN0301100593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Jan 93 pp 1, 2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has suffered a loss of at least $547 million in revenues from port and cargo handling as well as transport charges since the imposition of the international sanctions against Iraq in August 1990, according to a study conducted by the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association (JSAA).

The five-page study, whose calculations are based on 1989 figures, does not include invisible losses suffered by local businesses as a result of delays and cargo diversion ordered by the enforcers of the sanctions patrolling the Red Sea.

The study says that "intransit imports"—the bulk of it for Iraq—passing through the port of al-'Aqabah fell to 1.927 million tonnes in 1992 (excluding December figures) compared with 5.667 million tonnes in 1989—a decline of 66.01 per cent.

The total decline in such imports since August 1990 is calculated at 10.75 million tonnes and based on an estimate that each tonne of cargo passing through al-'Aqabah used to bring in JD (Jordanian Dinars] 25 in revenues to the treasury, the loss was a total of JD 268.85 million ($400 million); JD 59.375 million in the last five months of 1990, JD 115.95 million in 1991 and JD 93.525 million in the first 11 months of 1992.

"Intransit imports" totalled less than 44,000 tonnes in November 1992, compared with 515,572 tonnes in November 1989 and 569,962 tonnes in May 1992.

According to the study, "intransit exports" through al-'Aqabah totalled 1.151 million tonnes in 1989—an average of 95,900 tonnes a month. The U.N.-imposed embargo against Iraq brought such exports—Iraqi dates, urea, sulphur etc,—to a complete standstill since August 1990.

Based on the same formula of JD 25-a-tonne, the study says that the Kingdom lost JD 67.2 million ($100 million) as a result of the total halt to Iraqi exports through al-'Aqabah; JD 12 million in the last five months of 1990, JD 28.5 million in 1991, and JD 26.4 million in the first 11 months of 1992.

About 70 per cent of all cargo handling activities at al-'Aqabah were related to Iraq prior to the Gulf crisis since Iraq's own ports in the Gulf were blocked during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Direct losses resulting from cargo accessibility conditions imposed by the enforcers of the embargo were calculated at $23 million in 1991 and $20 million in 1992. The loss from the denial of total cargo space was estimated at the rate of $500 per 20-feet container and $1,000 per 40-feet container originating in Europe and $300 per 20-feet container and $600 per 40-feet container originating in the Far East.

The "accessibility" conditions set by the sanction enforces requires space in between the containers and in the cargo hold [sentence as published]. As a result, shippers are unable to use the vessels at full capacity.

The JSAA said eight ships were searched and forced to discharge cargo at other regional ports in the first six months of 1992. Consequent rerouting charges and extra freight were $4 million.

The last interception was of the Norwegian Jargon Vesta which was carrying 3,000 tonnes of British foodstuffs to the Jordanian market. The ship was intercepted and boarded at the Tiran Straits at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqabah on Dec. 26.

'Dramatic Decline' in Iraqi Imports via Al-'Aqabah

JN0401090393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Jan 93 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Iraqi imports through Jordan's al-'Aqabah port have shrunk to less than one tenth in six months, and officials and businessmen say the Iraqi government as well as traders are increasingly turning to Turkish and Iranian ports for their imports.

The decline is clearly visible. In May 1992, "intransit imports"—the bulk of them food and medicines destined for Iraq—arriving at al-'Aqabah totalled less than 44,000 tonnes in November 1992, compared with 569,962 tonnes in May.

Food and medicines are exempt from the international embargo imposed against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Businessmen say that there is a clear scaling-down of Iraqi imports of items classified as nonessential in the face of an acute foreign exchange shortage. But that does not account for the huge gap at al-'Aqabah, particularly since there appears to be little shortage of many basic items in the Iraqi market.

Several other reasons are also cited by Iraqi businessmen and economic experts for the dramatic decline as reflected in the figures given by the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA). Among them are:

—Strict inspection of al-'Aqabah-bound vessels and related conditions imposed by an American-led naval task force patrolling the Red Sea lead to costly delays and diversion of cargo despite United Nations approval of the shipments.

—Price ceilings set by the Iraqi government make it even more riskier for private sector importers to expose their cargo to uncertainties.

—Many Iraqi businessmen based in Jordan were scared off by the execution in July of over 40 merchants in Iraq accused of profiteering and black marketing.

—New procedures adopted by Jordan since early this year have gone a long way in plugging loopholes which allowed the smuggling of goods to Iraq and thus the kingdom is no longer a lucrative transit point for smugglers.

—Austerity measures adopted by the Iraqi government prevent the import of many goods classified as luxury.

—Many shipping companies have suspended their operations to al- 'Aqabah and others are charging high freight, again making it less attractive for traders.

—Dozens of Iraqi companies operating out of Jordan have closed shop and moved to Turkey and Iran, whose ports offer less exposure to the overzealous enforcers of the embargo.

—A significant part of Iraq's needs are met through barter across the Turkish and Iranian borders. Such barters are no longer possible through Jordan.

—The yawning fluctuations of the exchange rate of the Iraqi dinar in Baghdad is a perennial problem for traders based in Jordan, the only country where the Iraqi currency can be exchanged.

In general, said an Iraqi businessman, "it is no longer feasible to realise any reasonable profit in the Iraqi market if the goods are imported through al-'Aqabah." The businessman explained that despite the problems in getting goods into Iraq through Turkey and Iran, the returns were high enough to hold businessmen's interest."

Furthermore, he said, enterprising Iranian and Turkish businessmen were happy to take Iraqi goods—mostly dates and fertiliser-related products as well as limited quantities of trucked oil—as payment. The Iraqi government has been offering such products—most of them under state control—as payment for goods and services rendered by businessmen. In most cases, the applicable prices are as much as 40 per cent to 50 per cent lower than the international prices.

Another major reason for the decline of Iraqi-bound goods passing through al-'Aqabah was the suspension by many European banks of all contracts and negotiations based on Iraqi frozen assets and accounts held abroad. The suspension came after the adoption in August this year of a United Nations Security Council Resolution ordering the appropriation of Iraqi oil-related funds held abroad for war reparations and U.N. purposes.

"Most of the banks have now reopened their books after the initial alarm triggered by the Security Council resolution," said an Iraqi businessman, "but restarting negotiations and formalising purchase contracts take a long time."

Officials React to French Proposal on Deportees

President Rejects Proposal

NC3112130392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Report by unidentified radio correspondent from the Presidential Palace—live or recorded]

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has declared his rejection of the French foreign minister's proposal to transfer the Palestinian deportees to the UN operations area in southern Lebanon. He asked: Isn't this a part of Lebanese territory? We do not accept their staying in any Lebanese territory. They must return home. The occupier must respect the will of the people on the land it occupies.

During a meeting with journalists working at the Presidential Palace who came to congratulate him on the new year, al-Hirawi said: We are no longer a base for anyone who is persona non grata in his country. He added: They accuse us of being inhuman because we do not allow food and aid to pass through to the deportees. The main responsibility falls on the occupation authorities who displaced and deported the Palestinians. We will close our doors, and these doors will not be opened except to our welcome guests. They talk on one occasion about Bosnian children and on another about the deportees. Lebanon will not be an outlet for anyone.

He stressed that reassurance has returned to the citizens, and that there are no closed areas for the Lebanese. He turned to the journalists and said: If you correct crookedness with your pens, we may be forced at times to correct it by the sword.

The president emphasized the importance of the confidence factor in Lebanon. He said: If some countries still view Lebanon as weak, this is because of vituperations by some officials and ministers who attack each other. Confidence is an important factor, and no country can live without it.

Foreign Minister on Proposal

NC3112174292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Answering a question about the French proposal to move the Palestinian deportees to the areas under the control of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said: Instead of resolving this issue at the expense of Lebanon and its sovereignty, the international community should enforce the return of the deportees to occupied Palestine in implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

He added: The Lebanese Government refuses to allow the deportees to stay in any Lebanese area, including the occupied areas. France, which cares about Lebanon's sovereignty, cannot be part of an operation that results in making the deportation of the opposition permanent, in violation of international law.

Buwayz, who is in Paris, concluded his statement by saying: Following the courses adopted in the Gulf, Somalia, and other countries, dealing with this issue in this way belittles Lebanon and is a blow to the credibility of international legitimacy. This proves that some countries are above the law and that settlements are imposed on other countries, deemed to be weak, that harm their sovereignty.

Buwayz telephoned President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Ambassador [to France] Johnny 'Abduh. He also telephoned Lebanon's permanent UN envoy Khalil Makkawi and instructed him to ask the Security Council to draw up the mechanism for implementing Resolution 799 and to set a timetable for the return of the deportees.

U.S., Russian Envoys Summoned

NC3112140592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Dispatch by correspondent Lina al-Husari from the Government House in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, attended by acting Foreign Minister Marwan Hamadah, ended a short while ago. The meeting was preceded by a meeting between al-Hariri and the Russian ambassador in Lebanon.

Al-Hariri emphasized to the two ambassadors Lebanon's categorical rejection of the French proposal as well as Israel's attempt to turn the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], which is present in the south, into a tool for implementing its schemes.

Acting Foreign Minister Hamadah had the following to say after the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Hamadah] His Excellency the prime minister has summoned the Russian and U.S. ambassadors to inform them that Lebanon categorically rejects turning UNIFIL, stationed in southern Lebanon to implement Resolution 425, into a tool for protecting Israel's goals of setting up a deportation camp and a camp for dumping the struggling Palestinian citizens in Lebanon. He asked the two ambassadors to inform their governments that Lebanon will not accept any change in UNIFIL's mission without its prior approval. The two ambassadors promised to convey this position as soon as possible; it is New Year's Eve. The Security Council may convene, so it was necessary that the major states be informed of this position. His Excellency the prime minister has spoken twice to the French ambassador and informed him of the same position, particularly since French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas forwarded the proposal to let the United Nations take over the situation in Zummarayya. His Excellency the prime minister and myself will continue contacts in the afternoon with a number of Arab and foreign capitals.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Minister, will you ask the Security Council to lay down a mechanism for [word indistinct]?

[Hamadah] What we told these countries is that, should the Security Council meet, it is required to look into the method of implementing Resolution 799 and the mechanism for implementing it and not find an exit to relieve Israel of its crime of deportation.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, [words indistinct] to a third country, was this proposed to Lebanon?

[Hamadah] As I have said, this question does not concern Lebanon directly. The deportation, uprooting, or expulsion—whichever term is being used—was performed by Israel as a further act of oppression against the Palestinian strugglers. The world community must reach one decision: namely, return those people to their territory. Thank you. [end recording]

Saudi, Syrian Envoys Contacted

NC0101063793 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has told U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev about Lebanon's stand to refuse entry of supplies for the deportees.

Al-Hariri has also informed Lebanese Ambassador in Washington Simon Karam and Lebanese Ambassador in Paris Jony 'Abduh of Lebanon's stand rejecting the French initiative on the deportees issue.

The prime minister has also made contacts during which he explained Lebanon's stand rejecting the French initiative on the Palestinian deportees. For this purpose, he has contacted Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

[Shanayh Voice of the Mountain Radio in Arabic at 0530 GMT on 1 Jan says in a report on the same issue that: "Minister Marwan Hamadah contacted his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr Musa, for the same purpose."]

Defense Minister Comments

NC0201130193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has described the Israeli occupation authorities' decision to deport the Palestinians as a fascist and Nazi action and said that deporting them to an unliberated Lebanese territory was a flagrant act of aggression against Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. He said that Lebanon's decision is that the deportees should return to their land. If Israel wants to deport them to a third country, let it deport them from Israel and not Lebanon.

Dallul said we cannot go back on our decision for humanitarian grounds or human and health pressure. We will not accept any solution originating from Lebanon. He mentioned Lebanon's rejection of the proposal to transfer the deportees to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] area of operation. He said that the UNIFIL should allow the Army to rove their areas of operation in implementation of the Security Council resolution providing for this. He said that UNIFIL is still refusing Army deployment in their areas of operation for fear that Israel may fire at the Army and thus endanger UNIFIL personnel. He said that the United States, which brought huge forces to the region and forced Iraq into implementing Security Council resolutions, should pressure Israel to implement Security Council resolutions and withdraw from the south. We will then be ready to pledge before the international community that no operation against Israel will be carried out from Lebanese territory.

Dallul said that we cannot bar any Lebanese citizen who wants to from struggling to force the enemy to withdraw from our land. He added: We are acting through diplomacy to remove the enemy and there are those who use violence to do so. If we prevent our citizens from using violence, we will be consolidating the enemy and keeping him on our land. He said: Let the Israelis say that they will withdraw from Lebanon and that they will implement Security Council Resolution 425. We will then bar resistance. We pledged to do so and we have three Army brigades deployed in the south and are ready to send larger numbers to the south to prevent any operation if the Israelis withdraw or offer confirmations that they will withdraw from our land according to a certain timetable.

Israeli Proposal on 10 Deportees' Return Rejected

NC0101163293 Paris AFP in English 1542 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Beirut, Jan 1 (AFP)—Lebanon on Friday turned down three routes suggested by Israel for the return of 10 Palestinians mistakenly expelled.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri charged that Israel was trying to "set a trap for us" by suggesting that the 10 use crossing located in Lebanese-controlled areas.

"Israel is trying to grab concessions from us," said al-Hariri, whose government has steadfastly refused to allow the deportees—who are among 415 men expelled to Lebanon on December 17—on any portion of its territory.

"They must take the same route back," al-Hariri said.

The deportees entered Lebanon through the Zummarayya crossing in Israel's self-declared security zone in the south of the country.

An Israeli Army spokesman has listed three openings into the security zone at Bayt Yahun, Tibnit and al-Hamra'—in areas controlled by the Lebanese Army—through which the men could pass.

But the deportees have also turned down this offer and said they wanted to return through the Zummarayya crossing which is nearest their camp. But it has been closed by Israel's proxy militia in Lebanon.

Deportees React to French, Israeli Proposals

Spokesman Welcomes Dumas Proposal

NC3112144692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has addressed a message to the world on the occasion of the new year. He urged the world to remember the Palestinian people living under the yoke of occupation as well as those expelled from their homes and to put different kinds of pressure on Israel to implement Resolution 799.

Al-Rantisi said that if Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with the UN secretary general results in the deportees returning, it is welcomed. He welcomed French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' proposal to put the UN Interim Force in Lebanon temporarily in charge of the deportees, but he added that this solution is not clear. If it is intended to help us obtain supplies until Resolution 799 is implemented, we agree to it, he said.

Some Deportees Willing To Return

NC0101070493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has told AFP that the 10 Palestinians mistakenly expelled to Lebanon two weeks ago are willing to return to Israel immediately now that Israel has allowed them to return. He added, however, that they want an international organization to secure safe passage for them.

Deportees Reject Rabin Proposal

NC0201133293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has said that the deportees reject Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to stop the intifadah in return for reducing their deportation term. He said Israel's continued refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 799 will strengthen the intifadah, which will continue as long as the occupation continues.

Tehran Interviews Congregational Imam Deportee

NC3012174692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The deported Palestinian Muslims continue to live in dire conditions because the Zionist regime is preventing medical and food assistance from reaching them. However, despite the extreme cold and lack of necessities, the deported Muslims are continuing their resistance.

Several days ago, our colleague in Beirut was able to go to the place in southern Lebanon where the Muslim Palestinian deportees have been sent. The deportees have named this site al-Qods Camp. One of those whom our correspondent interviewed was the congregational imam of al-Aqsa Mosque and head of the Palestinian Muslim ulema association. Let us listen to this interview, which indicates the high morale of this group of Palestinian Muslims:

[Begin correspondent recording] With salutations to the dear listeners of the morning newscast of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Shaykh Hamid Bitawi, the congregational imam of al-Aqsa Mosque and head of the Palestinian Muslim ulema association who is among the deportees, said in an exclusive interview: We are defending the shari'ah, the land of Islam, and Muslims by our uprising in the occupied lands. Our conflict with the Zionists is an ideological battle. This is why the Zionists are determined to evacuate Palestine of all Islamic personalities and thinkers, so that by sowing discord among the Muslim Palestinian people and the leaders of this school of thought they can inflict a blow on the Islamic uprising. Our intention to return, however, to our homeland is firm. However long it takes or at whatever cost, we will adhere to our unswerving resolve.

The congregational imam of al-Aqsa Mosque added: I express my appreciation of the Iranian leadership, nation, and government, and I beseech the Almighty to protect Islamic Iran, as we have pinned high hopes on the Islamic Republic of Iran for resolving the problems of the Islamic world and liberating Palestine.

Concluding his remarks, the imam of al-Aqsa Mosque stated: I hereby wish to convey from al-Qods camp in southern Lebanon, via the radio of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the cry of Alas, O Islam! O Aqsa, and I address all the Muslims of the world and state that today Islam is in danger in Palestine and Palestinian Muslims are in danger. Our honor, children, mosques, and universities are in danger. Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first qiblah [direction in which Muslims offer prayers], and the third greatest mosque of Muslims is in danger. So, O Muslims, please rise up for the sake of your sacred divine duty. [Signed] The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut. [end recording]

Army Bars Red Cross Delegate Access to Deportees

NC0101153293 Paris AFP in English 1519 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Beirut, Jan 1 (AFP)—The Lebanese Army on Friday barred the chief International Red Cross delegate in Lebanon from visiting Palestinian deportees stuck in a no man's land in south Lebanon, the official said.

Bernard Pfefferle said he was planning to assess conditions in the camp but government troops stopped him from entering.

"I believe it was a mistake. I will renew my contacts this evening and plan on going back tomorrow," Pfefferle said.

Lebanese Army soldiers manning a checkpoint to the Marj al-Zuhur camp "refused to let me pass. The soldiers explained that their superior was not there," Pfefferle said.

An ICRC spokesman in Geneva earlier reported that Pfefferle would visit the 415 deportees to check their medical and food needs and pass on family messages.

The men have been stuck in the icy no man's land since December 17 while both Israel and Lebanon refuse to take responsibility for them or allow supplies to be taken into the camp from their territory.

ICRC Visit Under Consideration

NC0301122593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Marwan Hamadah today reiterated Lebanon's commitment to its stand on the deportees issue and said that Zummarayya is the only route for the deportees' return.

He said: We are cooperating with the International Red Cross but we (?cannot) allow the Israelis to impose conditions on us. He affirmed that the Lebanese Government is considering a request from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to visit the deportees.

SLA Chief on Deportees, Conditions To Hand Over Arms

NC0201172893 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has ruled out finding a solution to the deportees' issue soon so long as the Lebanese and Israeli Governments cling to their stands. He added that if a solution is found, it will be humanitarian and not political.

On another level, Lahd affirmed that he will only hand over his arms to the Lebanese Government within the framework of a full and comprehensive solution to the crisis in the region.

Lahd: No Solution in Near Future

NC0301085593 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, South Lebanese Army commander [SLA], has expressed his opposition to the deportation of the activists of the Islamic Jihad Movement and Hamas to Lebanon. He said: As a Lebanese I cannot approve of their deportation for humanitarian or political reasons. I cannot support deportation of Palestinians because we have a large number of them in Lebanon and have no interest in increasing their numbers. Gen. Lahd does not expect that the deportation will affect the peace process in the Middle East.

On whether he can see a solution to the issue, Gen. Lahd said: I cannot perceive a solution to this issue in the near future in view of the fact that both the Lebanese and Israeli Governments refuse to go back on their decisions. I can see no political solution but a humanitarian one.

On offering aid to the deportees by the inhabitants of the border area and whether he would permit it, Gen. Lahd said: If I would allow this, it would mean that I agree on their deportation.

Responding to a question on al-Hariri's government and its role, Gen. Lahd said that there is an international faction in this government but this is not sufficient, because economic and political issues cannot be separated.

Gen. Lahd thanked the Lebanese Government for the Lebanese Army deployment in Beirut's southern suburb and thanked the Lebanese Army on implementing the mission. He expressed hope that the deployment process will be comprehensive and not confined to hunting down certain wanted men.

Israeli Tanks Positions Face Deportees' Camp

NC3112122392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Three Israeli Merkava tanks this morning advanced north of Zummarayya crossing point and took up positions facing the Yunis-Marj al-Zuhur sector [in which the Palestinian deportees are camped].

The agent militia shelled the al-Nabatiyah area with artillery and rockets at 1000 today. Two shells fell in Zawtar al-Gharbiyah. There is no estimate on damage.

Deportees' Camp Fired Upon

NC0101074993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, said that firing toward the camp from the Zummarayya crossing, which is under Lahd militia control, occurred this morning. He added: For this reason, we need international protection, such as from the International Committee of the Red Cross or the office of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. He said that the international organization should [words indistinct] the 10 Palestinians after the Zionist army stripped all the deportees of their identification cards on 17 December.

No Casualties Reported

NC0301090593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0827 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees have said that the Israeli shelling of the outskirts of their camp last night did not cause any casualties. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duwayk, a spokesman for the deportees, said shrapnel hit the camp but there were no casualties, adding that the shelling was not justifiable. He added: Perhaps Israel wants to scare us in the hope of driving us toward Lebanon, but we do not intend to move from our site no matter how strong the shelling is.

Radio Reports Shelling

NC0301071593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Lebanese security sources have reported that 12 mortars were fired at the buffer zone where the Palestinian deportees are staying from the border strip last night, adding that the shells landed about 1 km from the deportees' camp. The International Red Cross representative in Lebanon has received Lebanese Government notification of a temporary suspension of a visit to the Palestinian deportees, as well as an Israeli rejection of a unilateral humanitarian relief visit. The 10 deportees to be repatriated to the occupied territories are waiting for the arrival of a Red Cross envoy to arrange their return.

Outskirts of Deportee Camp Shelled

NC0201222993 Paris AFP in English 2150 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Jan 2 (AFP)—Israeli forces shelled the outskirts of a makeshift camp in southern Lebanon Saturday where more than 400 Palestinians deported by Israel have been stranded for the past 17 days, local security sources reported.

It was not immediately known whether the shelling caused casualties among the deportees, who have been living in tents in snow and bitter cold in a hilly area between the Lebanese and Israeli armies.

Security sources said four mortar and eight tank shells were fired at 11.00 p.m. (2100 GMT) from Zummarayya, two kilometers (1.2 miles) away from the camp and where Israeli troops and their allies in the South Lebanon Army are posted.

The shells fell between 500 and 900 meters (yards) from the camp and appeared to have been aimed at areas near the villages of Mimis and 'Ayn Fujar according to security sources.

Food, clothing and kerosene have routinely been delivered to the camp by residents of the two villages.

Both Lebanon and Israel have refused to take responsibility for the deportees and are not allowing international aid to reach them.

Israel accused the 415 Palestinians of being members of Islamic fundamentalist groups on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and ordered their expulsion to southern Lebanon on December 17.

Defense Minister on Military Aid From Syria

NC0201175393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that he gives priority to citizens' security over living conditions. In an interview with our radio, he stressed that the Lebanese Army needs constant aid in terms of weapons and ammunition to be able to provide security on its own. He pointed out that the Army obtains equipment and ammunition from Syria whenever the need arises. Dallul added that he expects the first quarter of this year to see considerable activity by the Lebanese-Syrian Higher Council, noting that a secretary general for the council will be appointed.

Dallul on Raids, Deployment in Southern Suburb

NC0201180993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul today explained the implications of the operations carried out by the security forces in the last week of 1992. He stressed that the raids [against drug dealers and other criminals] will resume and continue. They were 70-percent positive, and after the holidays they will be 90-percent successful, he said.

Dallul said that the delay in implementation is due to the absence of the concerned officials. On rumors that gang leaders are tipped off on the times of raids, the defense minister said: It is possible that some officials or nonofficials learned about the plan and leaked it. However, our entering of those regions in the way we entered them; our confiscation of weapons, drugs, and vehicles; and the arrests we made were great in themselves.

On reports by American and European media that Lebanon is a warehouse for international contraband, Dallul said: When we carried out the raids, we did not heed foreign reports. What is being said outside has nothing to do with reality.

Dallul explained that the Army enjoys high levels of courage and competence, adding that the Army command is aware of all the facts. He said: We always need support because we have nearly 43,000 soldiers now, but we lack the equipment and weapons needed to impose security automatically.

On claims that the Army deployment in Beirut's southern suburb is meant to pave the way for the so-called suburb real estate company project and for demolishing certain unlicensed buildings, the defense minister said that the Army deployment and the real estate company are not related. He said that Prime Minister al-Hariri has given a lot to this country, without ever taking anything. He said al-Hariri came at the darkest of times and offered a lot. During the meetings with Hizballah, the prime minister's actions were highly appreciated, Dallul said.

Paper Rejects Rabin Conditions on Deportations

JN0101105593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 1 Jan (SANA)—The AL-THAWRAH newspaper published here today has described Rabin's conditions to review the Israeli stand on the issue of hundreds of Palestinian deportees expelled from their homeland, and to make the intifadah offer its head in return, as being bankrupt and cheap bargains that smack of political cruelty. In a commentary under the headline "Rabin's Mean Bargaining," AL-THAWRAH says: Frankly and impudently, Israel wants to exploit the humanitarian issue of the deportees and their suffering as a political card to exert pressure and to achieve what it has failed to obtain through violence, terrorism, brutality, and bloody punishment.

The paper notes that Israel's recent crime of deportation was a deadly mistake following on the heels of the impasse in which Israel was placed by the revolution of stones, the uprising of the kinfolk in the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon, and the ongoing peace process. Therefore, Israel found nobody in the world, even among those close to it, supporting its stand or its acts which are contrary to all laws and charters on human rights.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the world—which found itself in a confrontation with Israel's alliance and with its continued aggression, challenge, and disregard of international resolutions—has only two options: Either it champions its prestige, legitimacy, and credibility and entrenches the pillars of justice, security, and peace, or it does not.

Concluding, the paper says: The Arabs assert, without any doubt, that just as Arab land and rights are not up for bargaining or squandering, the intifadah and the legitimacy of resistance—which will not stop as long as there is still one inch of land under occupation and as long one right is still usurped—are also not up for bargaining.

Jewish Community Rabbi Denounces Deportation

JN3112125692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Official and popular reactions in Syria to the recent Israeli decision to deport 418 Palestinians to Lebanon continue to be recorded. The latest Syrian reaction was by Ibrahim Hamra, the rabbi of the Jewish community in Syria, who, in a statement to Radio Monte Carlo, strongly denounced the Israeli decision to deport Palestinians. He said that the harsh weather conditions of cold and frost which the deportees are facing may lead to their death. Hamra said that this decision was part of the collective punishment measures which he and all the sons of the Jewish community in Syria denounce.

On whether this decision will obstruct the peace process, Ibrahim Hamra said: [Begin Hamra recording] This action will affect the peace process which has been going on between the Arabs and Israel since the Madrid conference. I hope and appeal to Israel to respect UN resolutions and international legitimacy, specifically the recent Resolution 799. [end recording]

The rabbi of the Jewish community concluded by saying he hopes peace will prevail in the region in 1993.

Denies Travel Ban on Syrian Jews

JN0401100593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0825 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 4 Jan (SANA)—Ibrahim Hamra, rabbi of the Musawiyah [Jewish] sect in Syria has denied that there is a ban on travel abroad on the sect members.

In a statement to journalists yesterday Hamra denied that a travel ban had been imposed on the sect members.

Government Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics

JN3112195892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Dr. Ghassan Raslan, director of the Foreign Ministry's Eastern Europe Department, received at noon today the ambassador of Czechoslovakia in Damascus and conveyed to him the decision of the government of the Syrian Arab Republic to recognize both the Czech and Slovak Republics, and to establish diplomatic relations with them at the ambassadorial level. The Syrian Embassy in Prague will represent Syria in the two new countries as of 1 January 1993.

Armenian First Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

JN0201161693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Aleppo, Northern Syria, 2 Jan (SANA)—Armenian First Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Kirakosyan arrived in Aleppo this evening en route to Cairo. He made a statement upon arrival in which he stressed the need to bolster friendly relations and cooperation between Syria and Armenia.

Afghanistan

President Rabbani Addresses Resolution Council

LD0301110993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Speech by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani to the Resolution and Settlement Council in Kabul on 2 January—recorded; monitored in progress; following item alternates between Dari and Pashto; passages in italics from Pashto]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Esteemed representatives, Ulema, commanders, elders and leaders of clans, brothers present in this meeting, esteemed chairman of the meeting: May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

My dear esteemed representatives of the Resolution and Settlement Council. My speech has been divided into parts. I will speak first in Dari and then in Pashto for those brothers who do not understand Dari, in order that all our brothers present at this meeting should hear and understand my speech. [shouts of 'God is great']

Dear brothers, your historic, important, and valuble decision at this sensitive moment in our country's history to form the Resolution and Settlement Council, and your gathering here, dear delegates, at this important and critical moment in our country's history is a manifestation of your deep understanding of the lofty Islamic culture, and your broad knowledge and understanding of national and international issues. [passage omitted]

Today, when our country is again in difficulties, our political and jihadi leaders are again facing problems. Once again, as at the beginning of the jihad, many countries and foreign political analysts imagine once again that the Afghan nation faces a crisis and a problem, and that it will not be easy for our country to free and deliver herself from this problem. They believe that the Afghan nation can not solve this problem by itself.

How our enemies expect our country to split! How many people think that a deep and nationwide crisis will previal in Afghanistan! These are the same people who said yesterday that this poor nation, this defenseless nation, would not be able to stand even for a few weeks against the invasion of bloodthirsty Soviet troops. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, you proved yourselves heroes on the battlefield. Today you have again proved to the world that also in the fields of administration and politics you are a hero nation. It is true for all of us, but for me especially, that whenever I look back on the years of my fierce struggles to find something to be proud of, I can find nothing. The only thing I am proud of is your trust, the trust that a heroic and religious nation has placed in me. [shouts of 'God is great'] [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, in present conditions, you have carried out a great and historic mission. A number of our dear friends and dear cofighters, leaders of jihadi groups who should have been among us today, are missed here. There are some cofighters, brothers, and leaders who are boycotting this great occasion. Of course, there are some dear leaders who are not here because they are sick, because they are out of the country, or because they have some other legitimate excuse. They are not missed because their hearts are with us, and their will and decision are with us.

Of course, there are some dear brothers who are simply boycotting this occasion. On behalf of all of you, I send them this message: I shake your hands warmly, and appeal to you in the name of dear Islam, in the name of our dear country's martyrs, in the name of the maimed and disabled, in the name of the orphans who have lost their fathers in the trenches of blood and struggle, in the name of our sisters and brothers who have lost their dear spouses, in the name of our suffering nation, in the name of our devastated Afghanistan, and in the name of our heroic and long-suffering nation. I appeal to you to turn back from the path you have taken and to join with our nation, with the historic will and decisions of our nation. Then all of us together can jointly resolve the problems of our country in this historical condition. I hope they end their dispute.

Those who seek struggle and jihad should know that there is no longer any need for armed struggle in the country. [shouts of 'God is great'] If any drop of blood is shed in the country unlawfully, God's universe will shake. From now on, none of our brothers should wittingly or unwittingly subject their nation to destructive missile attacks. From now on, they should not use their missiles to bring grief to bereaved mothers and orphans who have no fathers. From now on, they should instead take care of widows, the maimed, and orphans, and should not cause any further pain or suffering to the already long-suffering families of our county.

My message, your message, the message of Islam, the instruction of God, and the instruction of His prophet is that from now on no blood should be shed in our country unlawfully. [shouts of 'God is great'] [passage omitted] From now on, any bullet fired at a Muslim in Afghanistan is targeted at the heart of an Islamic nation. Such a bullet is targeted at the aspirations of the martyred. Such a bullet is fired against the instruction of God and His prophet.

I urge all brothers who are not among us today to accept that Afghanistan is our common home. From now on, I do not belong to any particular party. [shouts of 'God is great']. From now on, I bid farewell to the Islamic Society of Afghanistan party [Jami'at-e Eslami-e of Afghanistan]. From now on, I belong to all the brothers, to all jihadi formations. I do not belong to north, the east, or the west, or to any other special region. [shouts of 'God is great'].

Dear brothers, I now address those dear brothers whose words, comments, and paternal advice I hear through the

BBC, from the Voice of America, or from elsewhere outside our country. Dear brothers—say a brother in Germany—if you have any criticism or proposal about the holding of Shura, about the running of the state, about solutions to our internal issues, it would be better for you to come and tell us personally, instead of delivering criticism and words through the BBC to our enemies and in order to make the enemies happy. The time has passed when there were iron walls between the head of the government and the people. [shouts of 'God is great']

From now on, the head of the state will appear like any ordinary person of the country in a mosque, at the front line of prayer ceremony, in the street, in the office, and everywhere else, along with everyone else. All his doors will be opened to everyone. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, on your behalf, I appeal to all dear scholars who are living abroad and who have left the country, whatever the circumstances of their departure, whether it was during the period of jihad, before the jihad, whatever regime they belonged to, whatever government they served. On your behalf, I send them this message: Our dear brother scholars, dear experts, O scholars wherever you are, our informed intellectuals, return to your country from wherever you are. This country is your home. The government does not belong to a particular group or a particular person; it belongs to all the nation. All of you should return to the country and make a contribution to the reconstruction of your destroyed country. We will welcome you all. I send this message to all our dear and knowledgeable brothers wherever they are, to all intellectuals.

Of course, there is a condition, and they will certainly agree to this condition: We will not allow any other ways and traditions in our country except Islam and an Islamic regime. [shouts of 'God is great'] [passage omitted] *From now on, I am not a representative of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan party. I am the representative of all the jihadi groups. [shouts of 'God is great'] From now on, I am not the representative of Tajiks, Turkmen, Uzbeks; I am the representative of all Afghans, the Pashtun, Turkmen, Uzbeks, Hazara, Baluchi, Nurestani, and all the nation of Afghanistan. I am the representative of all Islamic believers of Afghanistan, the Sunni and the Shia, and the representative of all our brothers. I will ensure the Islamic rights of all brothers who live in this country.* [shouts of 'God is great']

Dear brothers, some people are expressing views about our Islamic state. Some people think an Islamic state means a government of ignorance—God forbid- a government of poverty—God forbid—a government of backwardness. On the contrary, an Islamic government means a government of knowledge. An Islamic government means a government of wisdom. An Islamic government means a government of great economic power. [passage omitted]

Muslims should certainly take heed that an Islamic state should be based on Islam. Muslims should prove that their government is a government of knowledge, a government of wisdom, a government of righteousness, a government of justice. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, our Islamic government is a government of brotherhood and national unity. We should all work to protect the national unity, independence, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. We should remove the [word indistinct] from among the tribes, clans, or [?streets].

I call on all groups and all jihadi formations to join in this government of national brotherhood and national unity. Those who do not now support us should from now on join with us in this Islamic state.

Dear brothers, I spoke briefly about internal issues, and I want to stress this point again. Our government is not a government of revenge. We will not take revenge on any one. No one will be punished without the order of a court. We inform all people that unless their crimes in the past were very great—crimes that are unforgivable, crimes against humanity [Arabic term Hoququl Abad used for last three words], for no one can forgive these—if their crimes have not been very great, we do not bear them enmity.

We ask everyone to adhere to Islamic principles during the period of Islamic government, base their lives on Islamic principles, and submit to Islamic traditions and morals. They should follow the instructions of God and His prophet. Certainly, our Muslim nation will display the magnanimity and mercy which are characteristic of Muslims, who forgive those people who have committed small crimes. Therefore, we should all try to live in an Islamic Afghanistan in a climate of safety, a climate of brotherhood, and a climate of equality based on the teachings of Islam.

The security of the country must be protected. From now on, irresponsible armed groups should not be allowed to create trenches and centers for themselves outside the framework of the Islamic government and the Interior Ministry of the Islamic government. A country does not have scope for several armies. [shouts of 'God is great'] A city cannot have several governments. A city cannot tolerate independent military posts and centers within it.

Dear brothers, after your decision to elect a president, you know what the Shari'ah instructs. Shari'ah will be declared through your ulema as well. Thus, from now on anyone opposing Islam, opposing our Islamic state, is a rebel. This is the instruction of God, the tradition of our Prophet, and the joint command of our all religious ulema. From now on, should anyone fight against our Islamic state, our commanders and ulema will not try to mediate as peace delegations between the government and those in revolt. This is God's instruction. [passage omitted] *We ask all armed people, especially those who have retained heavy weapons, to join the Islamic Army, and then it will be impossible to form another state in the state—the Islamic state.*

Dear brothers, there are some people who say that the Islamic state closes the doors to schools. It is a lie, an impossiblility and imagination. With the establishment of the Islamic state doors of knowledge and learning open to all in every home and every village and town. But the difference is that we do not make worldly science an infidel-making science. We do not allow a school or a university to be a place which delivers atheist elements to society, as it once was. Henceforth, every school will be similar to a seminary. Henceforth, our universities are religious centers. Besides worldly science our students should learn religious science. Henceforth it is not to be the case that our doctor and engineer scholars cannot recite the first chapter of the Koran, as was the case during the former regime. Henceforth our doctors should be priests and lead prayers. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, some think that women have no rights in the Islamic state. This is a very wrong allegation because God says: Muslim men and women are each others guardians; both of them, Muslim man and woman, have an Islamic mission in an Islamic society. As a man has a responsibility in Islamic society, so a Muslim woman also has a responsibility. Was it not that Mohammed—peace be upon him—said about Aisha: O Muslims, take half of the tenets of Islam from Aisha. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, I hope that henceforth our problems will be resolved in our country. Albeit all people of the country, especially the persevering people of the city of Kabul, have suffered much pain and hardship. The shortage of food and shortage of fuel have placed severe hardship on the people of Kabul in this afflicted city. We hope the Islamic state will not need to apply force, but those who commit highway robbery should immediately open the roads without fighting in order that food and fuel, which exists in the country's ports, can arrive in Kabul City as soon as possible.

I believe that our brothers will talk to those people who prevent the arrival of food so as to bring pressure to bear on them and to tell them that from now, blocking roads will be seen as an act of highway robbery, and blocking roads is against Islam and is not tolerable to anyone. I believe that our brothers will help in this respect with their Islamic state.

From now on the government is a government that belongs to us all.

I have finished talking about domestic issues and now I will talk about external issues. The Islamic government is in favor of peace and security in the region and in the world. Based on lofty Islamic principles, we wish to see peace and security established in the region. We want the Islamic state to take an effective part in the regional, climatic [as heard] and international peace process. Peace is a collective term which does not accept division. If there is a war in a corner of the world, particularly in our region, all the countries will be unhappy. Therefore, we assure all countries that the Islamic state is in favor of peace and in favor of the establishment of security in our country, in the region and in the world. We are in favor of continuation and consolidation of deep Islamic brotherly, friendly and fraternal relations with all neighboring countries, including the Islamic countries.

To those friendly countries who do not interfere in our domestic affairs, we say that we too are in favor of noninterference in the affairs of others and are in favor of friendship with all Islamic countries.

On behalf of you, dear representatives, I express thanks and appreciation to all the Islamic countries, the neighboring countries, the friendly countries who have supported us during the jihad and immigration, particularly the Islamic brother country of Pakistan, the Islamic State of Iran, our brother country Saudi Arabia, and all the friendly countries and those countries who helped us during the jehad, the United States, China, Britain and other countries. We are ready to establish good relations with all countries, the neighboring countries, the friendly countries of India and Japan, the countries in southwest Asia, all the European countries, all the African countries and all those countries who are in favor of friendship with us, as a friendly country and within the framework of Islamic teachings and based on international Islamic principles and standards. We request from all the Islamic states and friendly countries to help and to cooperate with our long- suffering nation in the reconstruction of our country and in resolving our problems.

Dear brothers, your council, as the greatest forum of decision making, is the most authorized platform. We rendered your duties, so far, through the Leadership Council. Today, all Shari'ah authority has been transferred to you, and you would certainly transfer all your authority in your absence to the parliament that you choose, and which remains for a long time after you. The parliament will be discussing many valuable proposals that you have put forward—these proposals are very valuable proposals, which will be discussed and decisions made on them. The proposals that you have put forward to the Secretariat of the council concerning the Basic Principles, the temporary law of the country, and concerning the major issues of the country will certainly be comprehensively discussed by any parliament you leave behind. All these issues will be discussed and you too, certainly, at your absence, would transfer your authorities to the forum which would be chosen by you. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, I believe that you respected brothers realised during your stay that within our limited facilities we could not let you stay in hotels. Our great brother ulemas, tribal leaders, our dear commanders who came here—we were in crisis and thus were not able to welcome them. However, this is their home. Whatever we have is theirs. If we have not succeeded in offering good hospitality to you, we hope that you will pardon us. I hope that your prayers, your friendship and cooperation will always be with the government, and always with your Islamic state. When you rise in the mornings to pray to God, pray for me, for my colleagues and for your country, so that God will accept your early morning prayers.

Dear brothers, I hope your friendship and cooperation will be long and lasting. Your work did not finish here when you chose the head of your state. After this, wherever you are, at whatever trench, village or city you may be, your friendship and cooperation should be with your Islamic state and Islamic government. [passage omitted]

From now on, fratricide and war is not to be seen as a skill, and let us not call it an art. I am sure that many of our Hezb-e Eslami brothers and dear commanders and senior members of that party, including the ulema, are certainly against fratricide and do not support it. I hope those people who are against fratricide will advise those brothers who today are still angry. I hope you, too, play a role in this respect.

I am confident that brothers of Hezb-e Wahdat, especially our dear brothers, Ayatollah Fazel, Ayatollah Sadeqi and other dear commanders, as our dear brother, do not allow unhappiness to lead to clashes. I am confident that if the Islamic state—and I hope that day does not come—does something to ensure security, such as setting up a security post in Kota-e Sangi, where there was a Hezb-e Wahdat security post, and if it wants to install security posts for military reasons, it will not be seen as a declaration of war against Hezb-e Wahdat. It is to ensure security and to render a service. If a problem arises for some officials of Hezb-e Wahdat or another party in Kabul, I hope it is never—God forbid—seen as a reason for war against another group or party.

I hope that the Islamic State will not face any problems in the course of ensuring of security, and that all brothers will, jointly, cooperate in the security of their city, the capital of our country.

I once again thank you all, especially those guests who have come from remote provinces, ulema, dear commanders, and elders of tribes who have left their work to be here. [passage omitted]

Mojahedin Reaction to Rabbani Appointment

BK0301082693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1418 GMT 31 Dec 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] KABUL, Dec 31 (AFP)—Leaders of opposition mojahedin factions here were quick to denounce Thursday [31 December] the election of Borhanoddin Rabbani as Afghanistan's new president and hinted at possible military action.

Wednesday's vote during a traditional 'Shura Hal-wa-Aqd' was "illegal and undemocratic," said the son of Pir Sayyad Ahmad Gaylani, head of the Mahazi-e Milli faction, on behalf of his father.

"Our non-participation in the shura was due to the misconduct of the commissions supervising the election of shura delegates and the fraud and irregularities of the ruling Jamiat-e Eslami party," said Hamid Gaylani.

Pir Gaylani had been touted as a candidate for the presidency but at the election—boycotted by five of nine mojahedin factions—ruling Jamiat-e Eslami faction leader Rabbani was the sole candidate.

Hamid Gaylani said his father "withdrew his candidacy because the whole game was a set-up to allow Rabbani to win."

He said his father's faction had submitted a written list of 12 objections to the election procedures in the run-up to the vote, adding that Yunus Khales' Hezb-e Eslami faction and Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's Jabha Nejat-e Milli had submitted similar written complaints.

Chief Justice Maulawi Fazli had not investigated the alleged irregularities as was announced, the younger Gaylani said, alleging that delegates from the Jamiat faction—Rabbani was interim president going into the election—had dominated the voting process through the fraudulent allotment of 17 of the 29 Afghan provinces. Rabbani ally Rasol Sayyaf of the Ittihad-e Eslami faction had been alloted six provinces, Gaylani said.

He ruled out the the use of military force against the government, saying his father's faction would instead mount a "strong political opposition," and a spokesman for Mojaddedi's faction said it would do the same—for the time being.

"We oppose the rocketing of Kabul but we do not rule out the use of military force" if necessary, the Mojaddedi spokesman said.

Observers said such unilateral action would be unlikely, although Mojaddedi is thought to be allied with the more powerful Hezb-e Eslami radical faction of Golboddin Hekmatyar, which does not rule out rocketing Kabul in an effort to topple Rabbani.

Rabbani, who did not appear at Thursday's session of the shura, was believed to be meeting with Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud over the sensitive task of nominating his prime minister and cabinet.

Observers said Sayyaf's relatively strong personal showing at the shura could indicate a plum post in the offing.

"I think the president is going to suggest Sayyaf as prime minister," an aide to Mas'ud said, stressing that was his "personal view".

Some diplomats, meanwhile, speculated that the lack of heavy shelling on the capital by the Hezb was due to Hekmatyar being offered a top post by Rabbani.

Meanwhile, plans to elect 20 percent of the 1,335 shura delegates as a permanent parliament Thursday had to be delayed after speeches went over time. One speaker caused an uproar by demanding that the Shiite Muslim faith be officially recognised in the new Afghan constitution, but he was shouted down.

"Afghanistan has only one sect, the Hanafi (Suniite) sect!" voices cried.

Generals Congratulate, Swear Allegiance to Rabbani

LD0101213493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Burhanodin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan met this afternoon in Golkhana Palace of the State Presidency with a number of generals of the armed forces of Afghanistan, led by General Momen and General Abdul Majid. In the course of this meeting, General Momen, on behalf of others, congratulated esteemed Rabbani on his election as the first president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan by the elected representatives of the people, and pledged not to spare any efforts in realizing the lofty aspirations of the Islamic revolution alongside other forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and as a part of the Islamic Army of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, to obey the instructions and orders given by the Defense Ministry and the president.

Professor Rabbani expressed his appreciation of their good enthusiasm. He then said to the generals that now our country has entred a new phase it is necessary that you should render efforts toward consolidating national unity and strengthening the Islamic regime alongside other forces of the Islamic state.

Resolution, Settlement Council Adopts Resolutions

LD0101212293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The elected delegates of the people in the Resolution and Settlement Council expressed their views today about the machinery of the government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and setting up a parliament from among the members of this council, and they expressed their proposals and views in this respect.

A BIA correspondent reports that today's session, chaired by esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Shah Fazli, chief justice of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, held in the council conference Hall, began after a few verses from the Holy Koran. [passage omitted]

The people's elected delegates approved unanimously the following:

By the victory of the Islamic revolution and formation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the un-Islamic [word indistinct] groups have no right to operate in Afghanistan. In future these groups should not be allowed to carry out any kind of activity in [words indistinct]. Muslim elements and those who are faithful to the Islamic revolution and are competent to do the job should be employed in government departments.

Radio and television programs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan should further be prepared in accordance with the dictates of the holy Islam religion and the sacred Mohammadan Shari'a.

A regular army from Muslim and professional elements, mostly from the mojahedin groups, should be created.

The country's parliament should be set up from among 20 percent of the people's elected delegates to the Resolution and Settlement Council and in consideration of the population and administrative units. [passage omitted]

Missiles Hit Kabul; Mojahedin Activities Banned

LD0301170993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Reports from Kabul state that simultaneously with the swearing-in ceremony of Borhanoddin Rabbani in the presence of members of the Resolution and Settlement Council at least six missiles hit different parts of Kabul city.

A spokeman for Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense has said in this connection that, as a result of the missile hits, at least 15 persons were killed or injured. According to this spokesman, the missiles were fired from positions held by Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami.

Another report from Afghanistan states that the minister of information and culture of that country announced: Following the election of the president, the continuation of the activities of all mojahedin groups, in the form either of parties or of groups and bands, are banned. He said in this regard: In Afghanistan from now on, only Rabbani will be recognized as the leader.

The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, Hezb-e Eslami, Mahaz-e Melli-e Eslami, and Nejat-e Melli opposed the way the Resolution and Settlement Council was formed and the election of Rabbani as president of Afghanistan.

Minister Announces End of Resolution Council

LD0301173093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] In an interview today, Afghanistan's minister of state for foreign affairs officially announced that the sessions of the Resolution and Settlement Council have ended. He said that there are no obstacles to cooperation between the Government of Afghanistan and Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and the other opposition parties. The new government is prepared to accept the participation of these groups in the government, he declared. He added that 20 percent of the Resolution and Settlement Council members are due to be selected as members of Afghanistan's parliament.

Bangladesh

India Accused of Massing Troops on Kurigram Border

BK0101075993 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 29 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Kurigram correspondent reports that India has been massing its troops along the border of Kurigram District of Bangladesh since 15 December. The police stations of this district, along the borders of which the Indian troop movements have begun, include Nageshwari, Bhurangamari, and Fulbari. The Indians are illegally constructing border outposts and bunkers and have also increased the activities of their Border Security Force. Bangladesh nationals are also being abducted from the border areas. As a result, people of these areas have become frightened. On the other side of the border, India has suddenly increased the number of its border outposts and started digging trenches. When asked about the situation, the district administration and Bangladesh Rifles [border security force] replied that they had brought it to the notice of higher authorities.

Reportage on 'Long March' of Fundamentalist Muslims to India

Fog, Cold Slow March on Ayodhya

BK0301060493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 3 (AFP)—Fog and biting cold have slowed the "long march" of some 10,000 fundamentalist Bangladeshi Muslims to India's Ayodhya town, where they have vowed to rebuild a razed mosque, reports said Sunday [3 January].

Most of the fundamentalists, who left here Saturday in a caravan of buses and trucks for the western frontier town of Benpole, were stranded at a ferry terminal overnight as fog disrupted crossings, the MEILLAT newspaper said.

Officials at the Aricha ferry terminal, 80 kilometres (50 miles) from here, were unavailable for comment.

But MEILLAT, considered close to the fundamentalists' Long March Action Committee, said that if the weather improved the river crossing would be made Sunday and participants would meet more supporters at Rajbari town.

Azizur Huq, convenor of the committee, formed following the December 6 razing of the ancient Babri mosque by Hindu fanatics, said Saturday in Dhaka that the destruction of the 16th century structure was a threat to Muslims around the world.

Huq's committee organised the 800-kilometre (500 miles) cross-country journey, which official sources here said would be stopped by Bangladeshi security forces before participants reached the Indian border, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) from Dhaka.

Huq had said the fundamentalists would not resort to violence but warned authorities they would have to "face consequences" if they tried to stop them.

Organisers earlier said a mass rally would be held in the nearby district town of Jessore before before the marchers set out late Monday for Benapole, where police and the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles have tightened security.

Authorities Keep Marchers From Crossing Border

BK0401075693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0723 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Jessore, Bangladesh, Jan 4 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities Monday barricaded a road to prevent some 25,000 Moslem fundamentalists from crossing the border with India to rebuild a mosque toppled by Hindus, police said.

Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam and State Minister for Religious Affairs Abdul Mannan held meetings Sunday with the organisers of the "Long March" at Jessore Circuit House to convince them not to try to cross the international border with India, officials said.

Security personnel were brought in from other Bangladesh districts, police sources said, adding that "the road to Benapole was barricaded."

Life in this small town bordering India's West Bengal state was disrupted Monday as fundamentalists from across Bangladesh continued flooding in for the second day in truck and bus caravans and by train.

A police official here, however, said the leader of the march, Azizul Huq, had told authorities that they would at least go to the border post, but would not cross the frontier. He also assured the march would be "peaceful."

Officials said Bangladesh security personnel would stop the marchers at a point 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the border at Laugani village. The marchers were converging at Essore's major bus terminal, some 35-kilometers (21 miles) from the border.

India said Sunday it would not allow Bangladeshi Moslems to cross the international border and its paramilitary Border Security Force was on full alert in the area.

Earlier Monday, local police said some 10,000 Moslem fundamentalists had converged in Essore.

One police officer said by telephone that more people sporting the Moslem caps and beards of fundamentalists were converging at the terminal for the march.

The marchers were humming verses from the Koran and chanting "Allahu Akbar" or God is great, but they did not seem to pose an immediate threat of violence.

They carried placards with Islamic verses and with the slogan "Go, Go, Go to Ayodhya ... Rebuild the Babri Mosque."

The "Long March" could be delayed because of heavy fog, one resident said, quoting organisers.

If delayed, the marchers were expected to head for the Benapole border post sometime Tuesday for the final leg of the 800-kilometer (800-mile) intended journey to India's Ayodhya town to rebuild the Babri Mosque, demolished by Hindu fanatics December 6.

However, security officials said so far they had no information of change of plans. Ministers could not be reached for comment.

Some Bangladeshi Moslem groups were enraged after Hindus were allowed to worship at the site where the mosque stood in Ayodhya, while Moslems have been beaten back.

Hindus claim that a shrine to their deity Rama stood at the site and was destroyed by Moslems in the 16th century to make way for the mosque.

Moslems deny the Hindu claim. The Bangladesh Government has condemned the razing of the mosque and has repeatedly called for its reconstruction "on its orginal site."

Huq had said at the start of the rally Saturday in Dhaka that the razing of the ancient Babri Mosque by Hindu fanatics was a threat to Moslems around the world.

Huq addressed a rally from the rooftop of a three-storied mosque near the town's main bus terminal and has not changed plans after his talks with the government ministers, sources said.

According to announced plans they would move towards Benapole sometime after 12:00 p.m. (0600 GMT).

Police Fire Blanks, Tear Gas on Marchers

BK0401131893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Jessore, Bangladesh, Jan 4 (AFP)—Police on Monday fired blanks, blasted tear gas and caned thousands of Bangladeshi Muslim fundamentalists on a "Long March" to Ayodhya, northern India, security sources and witnesses said.

"Police were forced to fire after they were attacked by the demonstrators who blasted crude bombs and pelted stones" at the third barricade on the road leading to Benapole border post at Laugani, one security officer said. He said a "large number" of people, mostly policemen, were injured, but declined to give the exact number.

However witnesses said several hundred marchers sneaked through Laugnai village despite tight security and regrouped at Navarone Bazar, eight kilometres (five miles) from the border with India.

Police said Bangladesh Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam followed the so called "Long March" guarded by police and was continuously talking with the leaders in a bid to calm them and convince them to turn back.

In Calcutta, a senior Border Security Force said "we will stop them...we are fully prepared."

Earlier Monday, the marchers gathered in Jessore town to hear Azizul Huq, leader of the "Long March" to Ayodhya, where militant Hindus destroyed a 16th-century mosque they claimed stood on the birthplace of their diety Rama. Tension was high as more than 25,000 marchers, mostly barefoot, broke through barricades at Chasra and Ulashi villages, despite armed resistance from security forces, police said.

Chanting "Allahu Akbar" or "God is great" the marchers started for their destination after hearing fundamentalist clergymen preach.

"We will not permit them to cross Laugani village," one security officer here said.

Both India and Bangladesh earlier said they will not allow the marchers to cross the international border.

Police Say Ayodhya-Bound Marchers Abandon Plans

BK0401133793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1328 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Jessore, Bangladesh, Jan 4 (AFP)—Muslim fundamentalists, after talks with two Bangladeshi ministers, abandoned plans Monday to march across the border into India to rebuild a razed mosque in Ayodhya, police said.

Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam and State Minister for Religious Affairs Abdul Mannan convinced the leaders of the "Long March" to turn back, a police officer said.

"They offered prayers before turning back," he said of the marchers.

Tensions ran high as more than 25,000 marchers punched through two barricades earlier Monday as they made their way towards the boundary, police said.

'Stone-Throwing Mob' Attempts To Storm Naval Base

BK0401015693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1748 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Jan 3 (AFP)—At least one civilian was killed and scores of others were wounded after guards fired to prevent a stone-throwing mob from storming a naval base near here, police sources said Sunday.

Other unconfirmed reports put the toll in the overnight violence at four killed and 200 wounded, 51 of them in hospital, mostly with bullet wounds.

Police and paramilitary troops imposed an order banning public gatherings and sealed off the port city's main naval base and adjoining crowded civilian areas, official and police sources said, adding the situation Sunday was tense but under control.

A 35-year-old woman resident died of bullet wounds early Sunday at a government hospital where 15 other victims were being treated, the sources said, adding 36 more wounded civilians were being treated in the naval hospital within the base.

In Dhaka, Defence Ministry officials only confirmed the incident, but said they did not have any immediate details.

Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah al-Noman, a resident of this southeastern port city, Sunday visited the area accompanied by city's Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and talked to local people, assuring them of a proper investigation into the incident, officials said.

A Home Ministery statement in Dhaka, quoted by state-run Bangladesh Television, termed the Chittagong incident "unfortunate" and said the government had ordered a judicial enquiry.

In an unrelated incident in Hathazari town near hear, some 20 people were injured in clashes Sunday between local residents and police after an angry mob stormed a police station, police said.

The mob of several thousands also set fire to part of the station after reports that a local resident allegedly died under torture in police custody, local witnesses said. Police claimed Shamsul Alam, 50, the father of an escaped criminal, who was detained late Saturday, died of a heart attack.

Calm Returns After Rioting Outside Base

BK0401081893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0643 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Jan 4 (AFP)—Calm returned to the streets of this southern port city Monday where up to six people may have died in rioting outside a naval base at the weekend, police and witnesses said.

The death of a 35-year-old woman resident from bullet wounds early Sunday at a government hospital was confirmed, but newspapers quoting unofficial sources said between four and six people died and some 200 were wounded, mostly by bullets.

The trouble began late Saturday after navy personnel detained some civilians, following a row over a relationship between a naval guard and a local woman.

The government ordered a judicial enquiry into what it referred to in a statement as an "unfortunate" incident in which naval guards opened fire on stone-throwing crowds.

Early Sunday police and paramilitary troops imposed a temporary order banning public gatherings, sealing off the naval base and surrounding areas.

Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al-Noman visited the area Sunday accompanied by Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin.

India

Reportage on Ayodhya Marchers, Worshippers

Participants Arrested in Faizabad

BK3112125492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] In Faizabad, prohibitory orders have been strictly enforced following some incidents of brickbatting by activists of the Babri Masjid [Mosque] Action Committee [BMAC] today. The police resorted to a mild lathi [baton] charge when the activists tried to proceed to Ayodhya to offer namaz [prayer] at the disputed site. Over 1,000 BMAC activists were arrested. In Barabanki, the BMAC leader, Mr. Ahmad Bukhari, was prevented by the police from proceeding to Ayodhya. Later, Mr. Bukhari left for New Delhi.

In Kanpur, an indefinite curfew was reimposed in the seven police station areas of the city today as a precaution. Our Kanpur correspondent reports that some slogan shouting youths were instigating people to close their shops in the main market before the imposition of curfew.

Chavan on Rebuilding Ayodhya Mosque

BK3112161092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today said it is not possible to fix a time-frame for rebuilding the mosque in Ayodhya as the entire issue hinged on the acquisition of land and the Supreme Court's opinion. In an interview to PTI, Mr. Chavan appealed to Muslim leaders not to press for offering namaz [prayer] in the disputed site as this will only accentuate the current situation. He said the government has been trying hard to restore normalcy in the area and they should understand this.

Court Allows Worship at Ayodhya Site

BK0101131093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court has allowed darshan [view] and puja [worship] of Ram Lalla [Hindu deity Rama] at the disputed site in Ayodhya. Delivering the judgment today, Mr. Justice H.N. Tilhari and Mr. Justice A.N. Gupta, in their 62-page judgment, directed that the devotees should be allowed to have darshan in a meaningful manner and also keep in view the security of the idols. The court further directed that suitable arrangements should be made to save the idols from the vagaries of the weather. The court, however, said that the state authorities are free to take decisions regarding the law and order problem in accordance with the needs of the situation and also regulate the entry of the devotees inside the disputed complex. Writ petitions were filed by the Vishwa Hindu Adhivakta Sangh [World Hindu Advocates Association] and two others, seeking permission to have darshan of Ram Lalla at the disputed site.

The situation in the twin cities of Faizabad and Ayodhya is reported to be peaceful. In Faizabad, the curfew has been relaxed for 12 hours from 0700 today and for eight hours in Ayodhya from 0900. According to official sources in Lucknow, the relaxation period passed off peacefully.

Update on Court Ruling on Ayodhya

BK0101162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court has allowed darshan [view] and puja [worship] of Ram Lalla [Hindu deity Rama] at the disputed site in Ayodhya. Delivering the judgment today, Mr. Justice H.N. Tilhari and Mr. Justice A.N. Gupta, in their 62-page judgment, directed that the devotees should be allowed to have darshan in a meaningful manner and also keeping in view the security of the idols. The court further directed that suitable arrangements should be made to save the idols from the vagaries of the weather. The court directed to preserve and protect the material and articles of historical and archaeological importance which have been or may be found on the spot in the debris of the demolished structure or nearby area. The court, however, said the state authorities are free to take decisions regarding the law and order problem in accordance with the need of the situation and also regulate the entry of the devotees inside the disputed complex. Writ petitions were filed by the Vishwa Hindu Adhivakta Sangh [World Hindu Advocates Association] and two others, seeking permission for darshan of Ram Lalla at the disputed site.

Describing the decision to allow darshan of the idols as unfortunate, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Politburo has demanded that a clear stand be taken by the Center and the state administration that no religious activity is allowed at the disputed site till a final verdict by the Supreme Court in the matter.

The imam of Jama Masjid [grand mosque], Syed Abdullah Bukhari, has demanded complete ban on any form of worship or darshan at the disputed site in Ayodhya until the controversy was finally resolved. Addressing a congregation before Friday namaz [prayers] at the Jama Masjid in New Delhi today, he appealed to the Muslims not to be swayed by the communal rhetoric of the antinational elements and work for the betterment of the community with the cooperation of secular forces. Syed Bukhari also opposed the Center's move for one-point reference in Supreme Court on the dispute.

The situation in the twin cities of Faizabad and Ayodhya and Kanpur is reported to be peaceful. In Faizabad, curfew was relaxed for 12 hours from 0700 today and for eight hours from 0900 in Ayodhya. According to official sources in Lucknow, the relaxation period passed off peacefully. Our Kanpur correspondent reports that security arrangements have been tightened in the sensitive areas of the city. Curfew was reimposed in seven police station areas yesterday following tension.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has alleged that the recent statement by the home minister, Mr. Chavan, regarding offering of namaz at Ayodhya led to yesterday's incidents at Faizabad and Kanpur. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party vice president, Mr. Sundar Singh Bhandari, regretted that the statement has been made when the Allahabad High Court has allowed puja at the disputed site.

In West Bengal, a general alert has been sounded and the police have been asked to keep strict vigil on the situation in the wake of yesterday's developments at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

In Gujarat, barring stray incidents, the situation in Ahmedabad city remained peaceful today. The curfew will be relaxed tomorrow in different parts of the city in a phased manner. According to police, more than 2,000 people have so far been detained. A peace conference was organized by the Bharat Ekta Andolan [Movement for the Unity of India] in Ahmedabad today to strengthen peace and communal harmony in the country. Presiding over the function, the chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, called upon the people to follow Mahatma Gandhi's message of nonviolence. Others who addressed the meeting include the former union minister, Mr. Buta Singh; noted actors Dilip Kumar, Asha Parekh, and Rajesh Khanna.

The minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, today visited some localities in Mysore in Karnataka which witnessed violence recently. A peace march was held in the city today to promote harmony among various communities.

The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, says the delay in acquisition of the disputed area in Ayodhya by the Center may be because of some legal problems regarding titles of land. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said whatever politicians with vested interest may say, the people have by and large welcomed the Ayodhya package announced by the government.

The vice president of the Samajwadi Janata Party and MP, Mr. H.D. Deva Gowda, has urged the Center to convene a meeting of the National Integration Council to discuss the Ayodhya issue. Talking to newsmen at Mysore in Karnataka today, Mr. Gowda said that the issue needs a consensus action free from politics.

Further on Resumption of Worship

BK0201082293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Darshan [viewing] of the Ram Lalla [Hindu god Rama] idols at the disputed site in Ayodhya was resumed this morning. The sixty sadhus [Hindu holy men] and saints who were on hunger strike, broke their fast after darshan of the idols. The devotees are being allowed to have darshan in small batches from a platform of sand bags nearly six meters away. The Faizabad District administration decided yesterday to allow darshan to be resumed at the disputed site. This followed the directions given by the Allahabad High Court to the administration to allow darshan from a distance. Meanwhile, the twin cities of Faizabad and Ayodhya remained peaceful.

Pakistan Criticized for 'Negative Attitude'

BK0201085893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, said that almost all the Muslim countries, including Indonesia, have supported the step taken by the Narasimha Rao government after the Ayodhya incident. But, Pakistan is taking a very negative attitude toward India. Talking to reporters in Kottayam today, Mr. Jacob said that Pakistan's opposition to the step is aimed at harming India and is not out of any concern for the Muslim people in the country.

BJP Hints at Claiming 2 More Sites

BK0201130293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] says that Krishna Janmabhoomi [birth place of Hindu god Krishna] in Mathura and Kashi Vishwanath [Hindu holy place] in Varanasi are not on party's agenda now, but it did not rule out the possibility of the issues being taken up later. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the BJP vice president, Mr. Sundar Singh Bhandari, welcomed the Allahabad High Court verdict in upholding the people's right to darshan [viewing] of Ram Lalla [Hindu god Ram] at Ayodhya. Mr. Bhandari welcomed the Islamic scholar, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan's advice to Muslims not to stand on prestige and give up their claims to the disputed site in a spirit of love and brotherhood.

Janata Dal Asks Government To Take Over Ayodhya

BK0301161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The Janata Dal national executive has urged the Center to refer all aspects of the Ayodhya dispute to the Supreme Court for urgent adjudication. In a resolution adopted on the concluding day of its two-day meeting in New Delhi today, the party criticized the proposed move for a single-point reference on the issue. It said merely seeking advisory opinion of the Supreme Court will not help in resolving the dispute. The party demanded that the Center should take over the disputed site as a custodian and ensure the status quo till the court verdict comes.

Briefing reporters, the Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said the site plan for the proposed mandir [temple] and mosque should be finalized through a national consensus. He said the meeting endorsed the formation of a 13-party rashtriya ekta abhiyan [national unity campaign] to fight communalism.

Military Not To Allow Bangladeshi March

BK0301162693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1335 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Ayodhya, India, Jan 3 (AFP)—Hundreds of Hindus braved biting cold and offered prayers for a second day Sunday at a makeshift temple built on the rubble of the razed Babri mosque here. More than 500 men and women, including dozens of holy men, filed past the hastily constructed temple to the warrior god Rama in small groups in the first hour after authorities opened the site for prayers at 10:00 a.m. (0430 GMT). All visitors were frisked by paramilitary forces before being allowed to proceed towards the shrine through a barricaded winding path that led to a rostrum of sandbags where prayers were offered. [passage omitted]

In Calcutta, officials said India would prevent 10,000 Bangladeshi Muslims seeking to rebuild the Babri mosque from entering the country. Manish Gupta, home secretary of West Bengal state, which borders on Bangladesh, said authorities would take "necessary steps" if the Bangladeshis try to enter India.

The Border Security Force (BSF) said it was on full alert. "We are aware of the march and we are taking all precautionary measures," BSF Inspector General Balkar Singh said.

Gupta said the march, which began Saturday in Dhaka with a caravan of buses and trucks, was an "internal matter of Bangladesh."

Dhaka newspapers said Sunday that fog and biting cold had slowed the progress of the "long march."

In another development, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao would attend a delayed summit of South Asian nations in Dhaka beginning January 13. The summit was originally scheduled last month, but was postponed after the mosque razing.

Bangladesh Warned Against Border Crossings

BK0401085493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] India has termed the move for a long march to Ayodhya by some people in Bangladesh as an unacceptable interference in her internal affairs. In a statement in New Delhi today, the External Affairs Ministry said that it is clearly the responsibility of the Bangladesh Government to prevent any illegal border crossing by their citizens. New Delhi hopes that Dhaka will discharge its responsibility promptly and effectively. The statement further says that India is closely monitoring the situation and firm action will be taken by the Border Security Force [BSF] authorities to prevent illegal entry of people from Bangladesh into India. It adds that such a march is bound to heighten tensions whatever be the emotional motivations behind it. India has also made it clear that there is no question of permitting any border violations of our territory by foreign citizens.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal government has made necessary arrangements to ensure that no intrusion takes place from Bangladesh side in view of the so-called long march of fundamentalists. According to the state chief secretary, Mr. Krishnamurthi, BSF has also been alerted. He said the marchers are reported to have reached Jessore.

Bangladeshi Premier Urged To Stop March

BK0401125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] The Indo-Arab Islamic Association has appealed to the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, to take immediate steps to stop the proposed march of Bangladeshis toward the Indian border on the Ayodhya issue. In a telegram to the Begum, the chairman of the association, Mr. K.M. Khan, described the march as unfriendly and unfair. He said it will adversely affect the forthcoming SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Dhaka next week.

BJP Rejects Council's Claim on Jama Mosque in Delhi

BK0201160093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has rejected the All India Sant Samiti's [Saint Council] claim over the Jama Masjid in Delhi. Talking to newspersons in Madras today, the party general secretary, Mr. Govindacharya, said the demand is not appropriate and the BJP will not associate itself with the Samiti's view. Asked about the suggestions made by the Samiti for changes in the Constitution, the BJP leader said the Samiti is free to express its views and if there is any violation of law, there is legal provision for action.

Exchanges of Fire With Pakistani Troops at Siachen

BK0401030893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] The general officer commanding in chief of the Northern Army Command, Lieutenant General B.S. Asahani, has said that Pakistan is continuing occasional exchange of fire in Siachen, Cargill, Punch, Rajore, and Nowshera sectors. Addressing a news conference at Udunpur yesterday, he said the security forces' success against the militants in Kashmir valley is possible only due to the cooperation and intelligence provided by the local people.

Pakistan's Decision To Reduce Mission Staff Rejected

BK3112130192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] India has rejected Pakistan's unilateral decision to scale down the strength of the Indian Consulate General in Karachi to one third. The foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, conveyed to the Pakistan High Commissioner, Mr. Riaz Khokar, in New Delhi today that the decision is not acceptable as it is not in tune with the spirit of code of conduct on the functioning of diplomatic establishments of the two countries. Mr. Dixit said the decision is illogical considering the heavy workload handled by the Indian Consulate in Karachi which issues about 700 visas a day. Referring to the recent statements emanating from Pakistan on the Babri masjid [mosque] issue, Mr. Dixit said such statements will only heighten tension and generate communal sentiments in both Pakistan and India.

Commentary Discusses Importance of START II Treaty

BK0401121793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Commentary by defense analyst Captain C. Udai Bhaskar]

[Text] The signing of the START II treaty by the U.S. President, Mr. Bush, and his Russian counterpart, Mr. Yeltsin, yesterday marks the end of the cold war in more ways than one. START or Strategic Arms Reduction Talks were central to the cold war deliberations and the first major breakthrough was achieved in July 1991 when President Bush and the then president of the erstwhile Soviet Union, Mr. Gorbachev, concluded a truly historic treaty, START I. With the signing of START II, the principal adversaries of the cold war have agreed to cut down their arsenals of strategic nuclear weapons from an all time high of over 23,000 warheads in 1990 to a more reasonable level of 6,500 by the year 2003. The cold war has really come full circle, for this is the level at which the United States and the Soviet Union had maintained parity in 1960's.

Whether the world is more safe or less dangerous with 6,500 warheads as opposed to 23,000 warheads is part of the Alice in Wonderland logic that characterized the cold war. But, one thing is clear after START II, all arms reduction talks will be held in a post-cold war context with little parity between the two former adversaries.

The other reason why START II marks the end of the cold war environment is that President Bush, under whose leadership the two treaties were signed, will soon be laying down office. The Bush tenure symbolizes the end of the cold war in American presidency and the timing of START II was accelerated to facilitate a grand

Bush finale on global issues as he prepares to leave the White House. Similar domestic political compulsions apply to President Yeltsin as well and the signing of START II is being interpreted differently by different sections in Moscow. The supporters of START II maintain that this gesture will force the other nuclear weapon states of the former USSR—Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Ukraine—to quickly ratify the treaty and accept a non-nuclear status. On the other hand, opponents of START II in Moscow opine that the clauses of the treaty impose far deeper cuts on the Soviet arsenal and that the ceiling accepted by President Yeltsin as regards land-based ballistic missiles will permanently erode Russian strategic capability. While this is a fact, it is unlikely that the Russian parliament will be able to oppose START II given the economic vulnerability of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Be that as it may, the signing of START II paves the way for post-START deliberations, as there are many nuclear nuances in the post-cold war environment. By retaining their strategic arsenals at the level suggested, namely 3,500 warheads for the United States and 3,000 warheads for Russia, the global community is tacitly endorsing and legitimizing the need for nuclear weapons. This is a signal that could be differently interpreted by nations, and the basic validity and the rationale for nuclear weapons needs to be addressed now that the cold war has been formally buried. Herein lies the deeper relevance of START II.

British Minister Arrives in Delhi on Five-Day Visit

BK0201033093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The British home secretary, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, arrived in New Delhi last night on a five-day visit to the country. He will have talks with Indian leaders on terrorism in Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir, and the immigration problems faced by Asians in Britain. Mr. Clarke is expected to be given a briefing on the current situation in the region, India's efforts to deal with terrorism, and the evidence of Pakistan's involvement in abetting terrorism.

Czech, Slovak Republics To Be Recognized

BK3112130892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] India has decided to recognize the Czech and Slovak Republics and establish diplomatic relations with them. The decision to recognize the two successor states of the Czech and Slovak Federation will come into force from the New Year day. The Indian ambassador in Prague, Mr. David Manners, will remain as the resident ambassador to the Czech Republic with concurrent accreditation to the Slovak Republic.

ISI Reports Official's Meeting With Pakistani Envoy

BK0101103893 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0851 GMT 1 Jan 93

["Official spokesman's statement on the meeting between India's foreign secretary and Pakistan's high commissioner in New Delhi;" date not given]

[Text] Briefing the newsmen, the official spokesman stated that the foreign secretary Sh. [Shri, Mr.] J.N. Dixit, met Pakistan's High Commissioner Mr. Riaz Khokhar today. Foreign secretary conveyed to the high commissioner our reaction to Pakistan's decision to scale down the staff strength of the Indian Consulate in Karachi. Foreign secretary said that the Pakistani decision was not acceptable, being unilateral and not in consonance with the spirit of the code of conduct regarding the functioning of the diplomatic establishments of the two countries, apart from being illogical given the heavy work-load handled by the Indian Consulate in Karachi, including the issue of around 780 visas per day. Spokesman added that 8,000 visas had been issued by our consulate in Karachi since the govt of Pakistan issued travel advisory, advising its citizens not to travel to India.

Foreign Secretary also referred to the recent statements emintaing from Pakistan regarding the Babri Masjid issue. He emphasized that such statements only serve to heighten tensions and generate extremist communal sentiments in both Pakistan and in India.

Minister Leaves for Beijing To Sign Trade Protocol

BK0301085293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0720 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] India and China will be signing the trade protocol for 1993 in Beijing on Tuesday [5 January]. The minister of state for commerce, Professor P.J. Kurien, who is leading the delegation to participate in the fourth session of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology, will sign the protocol on behalf of India. He left for Beijing this morning to participate in the Joint Group meeting starting tomorrow. The group was set up in 1988 to promote economic relations between the two countries. It meets in New Delhi and Beijing alternately every year. The group last met during the Chinese premier, Li Peng's, visit to New Delhi in December 1991. Since then, the border trade between the two countries commenced across the (Lipulik) Pass in Uttar Pradesh. India's exports to that country have increased about four times from over 32 crore rupees to about 116 crore rupees in 1991-1992. An official release issued in New Delhi today says the trend during the current year is even better.

Security Forces Kill 'Hard-Core Militants' in Punjab

BK3112161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] In Punjab, two hard-core militants—Indrajit Singh Sakhira and Gurpreet Singh were killed in an encounter with the security forces near Shero village in Tarn Taran District today. The district police chief said Sakira was involved in more than a thousand killings and Gurpreet in over 300. They were also involved in the bid to kidnap the relatives of the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan.

Tripura Militants Kill 3, Abduct Border Force Personnel

BK3112161692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] In Tripura, three BSF [Border Security Force] personnel have been killed by the ATTF [All Tripura Tribal Force] militants. The BSF patrol party was ambushed near Dalpatipara in South Tripura District, about 140 km from Agartala this morning. Quoting police sources, our Agartala correspondent reports that two BSF personnel have been abducted. An intensive combing operation is being carried out to nab the culprits.

Assam State Orders ULFA Cadres To Surrender by 31 Jan

BK0101034893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 01 Jan 93

[Text] The Assam Government has issued an ultimatum to the misguided elements in the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] cadres to surrender by 31 January or face action under the law. A notification, issued in Gauhati yesterday, says in case of non- compliance such activists will be declared proclaimed offenders and their properties confiscated. It said a large number of surrendered youths of the banned organization are being rehabilitated with active government assistance and are becoming a part of the mainstream of society. But, the notification said, there are some misguided youths who are still holding out with the possible intention of continuing their unlawful and destructive activities instigated by professional and anti-national leadership.

Situation in Kanpur Improves, Day Curfew Lifted

BK0201041093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] In Kanpur, day curfew has been lifted from the Kotwali police station area following an improvement in the situation. Our Kanpur correspondent, quoting official sources, reports the day curfew has also been withdrawn from Marg Road to facilitate banking transactions as most banks are located in the area. Night curfew is, however, continuing in all the 16 police station areas. An indefinite curfew was clamped in seven police station areas on Thursday [31 December]. About 2,300 people have so far been arrested. Financial relief of one crore rupees has been distributed to the riot-affected people. The situation in Varanasi is also reported to be peaceful.

Missing Coastguard Aircraft Detected in Katak

BK0301035993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The coastguard Dronier aircraft reported missing yesterday has crash landed near (Ukajava) coast in Talcher village in Katak. According to our Calcutta correspondent, two of the six crew members were found injured. The other four are yet to be traced. The aircraft was on a flight from Visakhapatnam to Calcutta.

Seven Killed in Clash in Monghyr District of Bihar

BK0301125293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] In Bihar, seven persons were killed in a clash at Adarshi village in Monghyr District last night. The state home secretary told our Patna correspondent today that the police have sealed off bordering areas of the village to nab the culprits.

Army General Says Situation in Kashmir Improved

BK0201040293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The general officer commanding in chief of the northern army command, Lieutenant General D.S.R. Sahni has said that the situation in the Kashmir valley has shown a distinct improvement during the last one year and the trend is expected to continue in the new year. In an interview with AIR [All India Radio] correspondent Ajit Singh in Udampur, General Sahni said about 1,500 militants have been killed and 9,500 arrested by the army in the last three years. A high vigil along the border and the Line of Control foiled the attempts by about 4,000 militants in Pakistan to infiltrate into the valley.

Civil Aviation Minister Escapes Attack by BJP Workers

BK0301125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The civil aviation minister, Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia, escaped unhurt when BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] workers allegedly attacked him at Agra Cantonment railway station last night. The incident occurred when he along with his family were returning to Delhi from Gwalior by the Shatabdi Express train. According to the FIR [First Information Report] lodged with the Delhi police on the minister's behalf, a thousand-strong crowd carrying BJP flags knocked at all the compartments searching for him. They smashed the glass panes of his compartment and forcibly entered it, shouting abusive and obscene slogans. An aide of Mr. Scindia said the minister's son was injured in the scuffle with the intruders.

Leaders Condemn Alleged BJP Attack

BK0301161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The civil aviation minister, Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia, escaped unhurt when attacked allegedly by BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] workers at Agra Cantonment railway station last night. The incident occurred when and his family members were returning to Delhi from Gwalior by the Shatabdi Express. [passage omitted] Mr. Scindia termed the attack as preplanned. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, he said he will not be cowed down by such attacks. He said along with other liberal and democratic forces he will fight to ensure that the rule of law prevails in the country.

Condemning the attack, the human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, said it is time to take firm steps to save the country from such dark forces. The minister of state for mines, Mr. Balramsingh Yadav, demanded a high-level inquiry into the incident and action against the culprits.

The Madhya Pradesh Congress-I president, Mr. Digvijay Singh, has condemned the attack. In a statement, he said through this attack the BJP has shown the fangs of its fascism, as he put it.

Parties Launch Campaign for Unity, Secularism

BK0401130893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Eleven-party Rashtriya Ekta Abhiyan [National Unity Campaign] formally launched its campaign for national unity and secularism at the Gandhi Smriti [memorial] in New Delhi this morning. The launching of the campaign, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the Civil Disobedience Movement, began with the veteran Gandhian and former Orissa Governor Mr. B.N. Pandey administering the oath to leaders of various parties. Among those who have taken the oath were Mr. V.P. Singh; Janata Dal-A leader Mr. Ajit Singh; CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Prakash Karath; and Mr. M. Farooqi of the CPI [Communist Party of India].

Iran

Syrian Vice President Arrives for Talks

Makes Arrival Statement

JN0301180293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, 3 Jan (SANA)—[Syrian] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Tehran this afternoon. He is accompanied by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and other top Syrian Foreign Ministry officials. On hand to greet them at Tehran's international airport were Vice President Hasan Habibi, Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and other Iranian officials, as well as the Syrian ambassador in Tehran and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Khaddam told reporters at the airport that he is visiting Iran to attend meetings of the joint higher commission and hoped the sessions will advance bilateral and regional interests.

The vice president said that he and his delegation are glad to be visiting Iran. Khaddam said he is carrying a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

When asked about the Palestinian deportees, Khaddam said that Syria is holding contacts with the permanent members of the UN Security Council. He noted that the issue will come up at an upcoming meeting of Arab foreign ministers, and that the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has called for convening a meeting for the same purpose. He expressed hope for sizable attendance at the ICO session to press for the repatriation of the expellees to their homeland, Palestine.

Syria, Khaddam affirmed, stands by the deportees and by the Palestinian people's struggle as they face occupation.

Obviously, Israel is not too keen on a Middle East peace settlement, which is why it keeps raising obstacles, Khaddam said.

Asked whether Syria is mediating between Tehran, on the one hand, and Egypt and the United Arab Emirates on the other, Khaddam said Syria is doing all it can in the interest of friendly and brotherly ties between Arab states and Iran.

Meanwhile, in welcoming remarks at the airport, Dr. Habibi said the talks with the Syrian delegation will address all issues of common interest. Relations between Syria and Iran are far advanced, Habibi added.

Official talks between the two sides are due to open at the Iranian presidential offices at 1800 [1600 GMT] today.

Initial Talks Held 3 Jan

LD0301223393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The initial round of talks between first Vice President Hasan Habibi and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam were held in Tehran this afternoon. Foreign Minister Velayati and his Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', also participated in the discussions.

Habibi said that, in light of today's sensitive global situation and regional developments, these discussions were useful. He stated that the two countries should move toward the expansion of relations in various fields. On the expulsion of Palestinians from occupied Palestine, he said that the issue is no longer regional, but has taken on international dimensions. Here the role of America and Israel of enmity toward Muslims and the Islamic world is clearly evident, he declared, adding that the presence of America in the Persian Gulf also falls within this context.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's first vice president said that America is creating tensions in Islamic countries in order to overshadow the Palestinian issue. We should not be absentminded, he stated. The expansion of brotherly and friendly relations with Islamic countries of the region and the world is one of the aims of the Islamic Republic, which keeps itself aloof from the creation of tension, since this would not serve the interests of the people and governments of the region, he asserted. Habibi then emphasized: We should be more active regarding the member countries of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization.

'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam expressed satisfaction with his trip to Iran and his meeting with Habibi. He said his country is interested in the expansion of relations with Iran, for the furtherance of their common aims. We share your view on the divisive presence of the colonialists in Islamic countries, which is aimed at the creation of divisions among Muslims, he declared. He went on to say that experience has shown that the Islamic Republic of Iran has abstained from the creation of tension and has sought brotherly relations with the Islamic countries of the region. He stated that, through controlling the world's energy sources, global arrogance is seeking to increase its influence and power in the world, particularly in the Third World countries, and Iran and Syria are two clear targets of this process.

In this round of talks the two countries stressed the need to solve the problems of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, put an end to schism in India, and expand brotherly relations, in various fields, among Islamic countries.

Delegation Meets President

LD0401115093 Tehran IRNA in English 1128 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, IRNA—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today and submitted President Hafiz al-Asad's message on the latest developments in Lebanon and Palestine, the Arab-Israeli talks and the Iraqi situation.

Khaddam, heading a high-ranking delegation, arrived here on a three-day official visit Sunday [3 January].

During the meeting, also attended by First Vice President Hasan Habibi and foreign ministers of Iran and Syria, Khaddam underlined the two countries' common viewpoints on key world and regional issues and the need for further exchange of views between Tehran and Damascus with due respect to the present crucial world conditions.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that Iran and Syria share views on many aspects.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, since its very establishment, has underlined that nothing could be achieved from holding negotiations with the Zionist regime," he stressed.

The legitimate struggles of the oppressed Palestinian nation against the occupying regime of Qods should be continued until full materialization of their rights, the president told Khaddam and expressed hope that the Arab negotiators have realized this point.

He also pointed out the need for serious cooperation among Muslim countries aimed at removing the problems of the Islamic world and underlined that cooperation between the Islamic countries, Iran and Syria in particular, could thwart the expansionist goals of world powers.

Pakistan Speaker Meets With Dignitaries

Majles Speaker's Comments

LD0201123393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan, who is visiting Iran at the head of a parliamentary delegation, met with Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, this morning.

Referring to the depth of friendly and fraternal relations between Iran and Pakistan, he assessed the outlook of the two countries' relations as positive and called for further cooperation between Iran and Pakistan in international forums in order to eliminate Muslims' problems.

On cooperation between the two countries, he said: With the newly independent republics joining the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], the organization has been further strengthened. With their assistance we should work to ensure that they do not have to rely on hegemonist powers for their survival.

Pakistan's parliamentary speaker said the positive role of parliamentary friendship groups in expanding bilateral ties is insufficient. He called for the creation of a strong alliance between the parliaments of ECO member states.

Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri stated that Iran and Pakistan have common positions regarding Islamic countries and Muslims. He thinks Muslims' Islamic aspirations are the main reason for hegemonist powers' crimes against them. The Majles speaker then referred to Central Asian matters, the Muslim movement in Egypt, Muslims' success in Afghanistan and the West's provocation there—the West is preventing the establishment of stability.

He said: One of the objectives of the U.S. military presence in Somalia is to threaten Sudan.

At the end of the meeting, Transport Minister Sa'idi Kia, who heads the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission, submitted a report emphasizing the growth in economic cooperation between the two countries.

UN Criticized at Banquet

LD0201233193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri held a banquet on Saturday [2 January] night in honor of Gohar Ayub Khan, the speaker of the Pakistani National Assembly. In a speech delivered at the banquet, Nateq-Nuri spoke of the strong interests and ties which link the two countries, and described religious fellowship, cultural bonds, geographical proximity, and shared interests as factors which have caused the people of Iran and Pakistan to live in peace and harmony alongside one another for many years.

The Majles speaker referred to the fact that the Economic Cooperation Organization, with a population of 300 million, is in a position to play a powerful role in the region and in international affairs today. He said: The Majles is ready to play its part in expediting the approval of relevant bills.

Nateq-Nuri spoke of the constant dangerous conspiracies which target Islamic dignity, the independence of Islamic governments, and the vital resources of the Islamic ummah. Noting Western governments' defense of the apostate Salman Rushdie, the tragedy of Babri mosque, the Serbs' crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the suppression of and injustices against the people of Kashmir, and the crimes against Palestinians of the regime occupying Jerusalem, he said: All this is taking place at a time when the United Nations and its associated organizations see these crimes, with their concern for human rights, and say nothing. The Majles speaker stressed: We cannot place our destiny in the hands of an organization which has consistently shown its lack of neutrality about issues concerning the Islamic world and which has, more important, proven that it is easily influenced by certain arrogant powers.

In conclusion Nateq-Nuri referred to recent developments in the current situation of the world and stressed: Now more than ever, circumstances make it imperative that the world of Islam should reclaim its Islamic identity and stand united against blasphemy's new policy of advancing in the world.

For his part, Gohar Ayub Khan, the speaker of the Pakistani National Assembly, stressed in a speech at the banquet that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Pakistan have shared viewpoints. He called for the greatest possible expansion of ties between the two countries. He referred to the problems of Palestinian, Bosnian, and Kashmiri Muslims and spoke of the need for joint efforts by Iran and Pakistan to convince the world that they must resolve these problems.

He expressed the hope that, with the establishment of a strong parliamentary association of Economic Cooperation Organization members, the relevant parliaments will be able to play a more effective role.

President: Countries Share Views

LD0301140493 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday [3 January] said that the fact that Iran and Pakistan share many similar stands on world issues stems from common belief and sentiments of the two brotherly Muslim nations.

The president, meeting with speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Gohar Ayub Khan, said it was necessary for Muslim countries to cooperate with one another to overcome problems of the Muslim world including those in Afghanistan, Kashmir, India, Central Asia, the Balkans and Palestine.

The resources of Iran and Pakistan can be supplementary to each other and the two countries can function as a reliable base for the region and the world of Islam, he said.

The president expressed hope that mutual cooperation would expand in various fields in future.

Ayub Khan, who arrived here Saturday at the head of a high-ranking delegation, said Pakistan deeply appreciates Iran for its principled stance on regional and international issues in general and on Islamic issues in particular.

He expressed hope that both countries would take effective steps towards solving the problems of Muslims throughout the world.

New Czech, Slovak Republics Recognized

LD0101133093 Tehran IRNA in English 1236 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—Iran today recognized the two new republics of Czech and Slovakia (formerly Czech and Slovakia Federal Republic), and expressed readiness to set up diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with each.

A Foreign Ministry statement here Friday [1 January] hoped that the two countries could play an important role in restoration of peace and stability in the region and in the world at large.

Iran respecting the two nations' sovereignty and the will to determine their destiny recognizes the establishment of these two independent countries in Europe, it added.

Prague, the former Federal capital, is the capital of the Czech Republic while Bratislava is the capital of the Slovak Republic. The decided to separate peacefully as of new year eve last night.

Jannati Leads Tehran Friday Prayers 1 Jan

LD0101122493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Friday [1 January] prayer venues in various cities and areas of the country once again witnessed the presence of masses of worshippers and devotees of participation in this holy rite. In Tehran's Friday prayer rites, Ayatollah Jannati elaborated on the current problems of the world of Islam and viewed the conspiracies that are being hatched and aggressions against the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Palestine, Tajikistan, India, Egypt, Algeria, Somalia, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and other regions, speaking about the continuation of the atheistic [zedd-e elahi] policy of the big powers.

Referring to the recommendations contained in Imam Khomeyni's historic letter, God's blessing be upon him, to the last leader of the former Soviet Union, he stressed: The policy of God-cleansing [khoda zoda'i] and shunning spirituality will eventually push all the arrogant powers, including America and the West, toward the whirlpool of collapse and disintegration. We are certain that in the not too distant future Muslims will reap their great victory on the international level out of hardships and the pressures of struggle.

In another part of the prayer sermons, Ayatollah Jannati, noting that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's administration has prepared next year's budget bill with caring and relentless effort and submitted it to the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles], said that Majles deputies have a grave duty in meticulously examining the bill. He told the people's deputies in the Majles that while they consult economic experts, their decision on the important budget should follow a great deal of study and be properly thought out.

Khamene'i Message on Bosnia, Palestinian Deportees

LD0101203093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the Muslims, today issued a message congratulating the auspicious anniversary of the birth of the great prophet of God, His Holiness Jesus Christ, peace be upon Him, to all Christians and Muslims of the world.

The text of the message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

On the anniversary of the birth of the great messenger of God, His Holiness Jesus Christ, peace be upon Him, I congratulate all Christians and Muslims, particularly our Christian compatriots.

That honorable messenger, as with all great messengers of God, brought the good news of mankind's prosperity and carried the banner of humanity's oneness and dignity, and today humanity needs that delivering message more than ever.

This year, in the Balkans, a group of people who falsely associate themselves with His Holiness, Christ, stained the birthday of that supporter of the oppressed with the blood of thousands of innocent Muslim men, women and children, and committed a great tyranny.

How surprising that through the Christian world none of the powerful was prepared to take a single step along what Christ urged and make a serious move to save the oppressed people of Bosnia.

The world ruled by the arrogants, the world deceived by the culture of money and power, and the world diseased by Western teaching cannot stand by today and watch in cold blood so much crime and still call itself the follower of Moses, Christ, and Muhammad, God's peace and benediction be upon them.

In another part of the same misled world the bloodthirsty Zionists have created a new catastrophe. They expelled hundreds of the best offsprings of bloody Palestine from their homeland. Now, in this cold winter and on the days and nights coinciding with the birthday of the Savior, Jesus Christ, in Europe and in the Middle East, Serbs and Zionists, who belong to two religions, are following the religion of force, oppression and arrogance, and have embarked on creating catastrophes. It befits all true followers of the monotheist religions, all the caring Muslims, Christians and Jews, to do all possible to stop such crimes. That is the true respect for the message of the prophets and honoring the auspicious birthday of His Holiness, Jesus Christ, peace be upon Him.

It is hoped that divine blessing and the support of His Holiness, the Lord of the Age, may our souls be sacrificed for Him, be with those who follow the message of reason and religion.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 1 January 1993.

Conference on Bosnia Favors Serbs, Not Muslims

LD0301150293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Political observers believe that much doubt remains about the recent Geneva talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina, which brings a proposed solution under question because the Serbs continue to call for the establishment of an independent government in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Also, no agreement has been reached between Muslims and Croats on Bosnia's future structure. In fact, instead of agreeing with the Muslims, the Croats reached an agreement with the Serbs on the creation of a confederation of three independent governments comprising the Serbs, Muslims and Croats.

That issue will have very negative consequences for the Muslims, because dividing Bosnia into three national governments—considering the dispersion of the Muslim population—will turn them to national minorities within the two Serbian and Croatian governments. Also it is likely that those two governments could claim the right to self-determination and leave the confederation, and join Serbia or Croatia. That would completely wipe out the Muslims' existence there.

The proposal to divide Bosnia into a number of states on the basis of their ethnic structure, or in other words, the setting up of a confederation comprising three nations—bearing in mind that two thirds of the Bosnian territory is under occupation of the Serbs—is in fact in line with the Serbs' long-term objectives to dismember Bosnia and create a greater Serbia. This will eventually hand victory to the Serbs. The best evidence for this claim are the remarks by Radovan Karadzic, who expressed satisfaction by saying that the plan contains many acceptable elements.

Meanwhile, worthy of attention are the recent efforts by the Western governments, which have increased during the past few weeks. Those efforts are the result of the world of Islam's serious warning to the West at the Jeddah Conference. The conference set 15 January as the deadline for the Serbs to end their attacks, otherwise the Muslim countries would intervene militarily. It should be noted that the deadline is nearing its end. In fact, the Western countries' endeavors can be considered as showing their concern for this issue.

The serious and decisive stance of the Islamic countries, supported by the public opinion of 1 billion Muslims throughout the world, against the increasing efforts of Western countries proves the fact that Islamic countries can play an active role in the international arena through complete unity. Also, Islamic countries which see a military solution as the only way to end the war, now have many reasons to defend that belief; reasons which can strengthen their stance for further activity at the international level and which can move toward forcing the world community to react seriously against Serbian atrocities.

Deportations 'Overt Sneering' at Arab Regimes

NC0401092693 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 21 Dec 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Betting on a Lame Horse"]

[Text] The deportation of many Muslim Palestinians to southern Lebanon shows again that in the compromising talks with Israel, the Western regimes are like gamblers betting on a lame horse; their fate is defeat and disgrace. Experience has proven that the Zionist regime thinks of one thing—dominating the occupied Palestinian territories and forcing the Arabs to sign a wretched agreement. This is an impudent crime.

For nearly five decades the Zionists have resorted to every possible means to fulfill the dream of the so-called promised land from the Nile to the Euphrates. Hostility, homelessness, and massacres are the tools the Zionists use and force is the only language they understand.

Since 1975 compromising talks have started in various forms. But what results have they yielded? What concessions have the Arabs and the talks' supporters gained? What has changed to their benefit? Have they achieved anything but disgrace? Aren't those who say Israel should be recognized as an official country in the Middle East and then be forced to return the Arab territories occupied after 1967 to the Palestinians moving toward an impasse?

While the pro-'Arafat Palestinians and other Arab countries hold the umpteenth round of compromising talks with the Israeli regime in Washington, hundreds of Palestinians have been deported from their homes without reason and driven into southern Lebanon. This is overt sneering at the Arab regimes and an effort to discredit them. Is a regime that acts like this worthy of receiving anything? Without doubt, revolutionary Muslims will never attach any legitimacy to the Zionist regime; they knew from the start that this regime would continue to pursue its objectives by resorting to various pretexts. But this incident can provide very good proof for those who have turned a blind eye to historic realities and think they can force the Israeli executioners into peaceful coexistence.

Take those who consider as illogical the Muslim people of Iran rejecting the legitimacy of the Zionist regime. What is their answer for the inhuman act [of deportation] carried out by this regime? Can they justify this act? With each step the Arabs take to retreat, they give up a footing. With the retreat of the Arabs, the Zionist regime will find itself in a superior position.

The actions of the Zionist regime in Egypt reveal shocking realities. Egypt's compromise with the Zionist regime yielded nothing but adversity, disorder, and unrest for the Egyptian people and Government. Through their interventions in the past years, the Zionist regime's security and intelligence forces have worsened the situation in Egyptian society. The result has seen a gap widening between the government and Muslim people and their drowning in a sea of economic crises.

Undoubtedly, Islamic countries do not accept the anti-Islamic activities of the Zionist regime and, if need be, the Muslim people in these countries will react. Arab countries should learn a lesson from incidents of the past decade that are the outcome of negligence, compromise, and neglect of the objectives of this usurping regime and start to correct their policies while there is time.

The Zionist regime is vulnerable. Deporting hundreds of Palestinians on charges of their possible support for the intifadah movement of the Palestinian people proves the Zionist regime is weak and bankrupt. If the intifadah of the Palestinian people and the Islamic Resistance of southern Lebanon enjoy the full support of Islamic countries and if these governments stand next to the nations, the Zionist regime cannot carry out its aggressive maneuvers.

The Zionist regime is doing its best to worsen the crisis and move controversies into Islamic countries to achieve its objectives under the cover of these crises. Fanning the flames of conflict among Islamic countries on various pretexts, propounding the threat of Iran, and so on are all parts of this policy the dimensions of which are becoming clearer daily.

The Iranian nation's resistance to these policies has enraged Zionist circles so much that spokesmen for Zionist views have had to make some confessions and—by resorting to threats and terror—tried to deter Iran from continuing this policy. Amir Taheri [Iranian analyst and commentator living abroad], who has, by stating his views, been the spokesman for the Zionists for many years, now says: "This policy does not benefit the Iranian nation, country, or government; it cannot be implemented or prove useful for the Iranians." Taheri, who considers himself a defender of Palestinians, says: "The Palestinians do not accept Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the government it wants to create."

It is not clear when Taheri started to represent the Palestinian people—unless we believe these remarks stem from fear about continuing the intifadah movement.

The deaths of three Israeli officers in past weeks have alarmed Israeli officials, because the Palestinian people's resistance movement has entered a new phase that will undoubtedly accelerate the Palestinian people's victory. After suffering five decades of pressure and adversity, the Palestinian people are more hopeful than ever that their lands will be liberated. This comes when the big powers are pressuring every element to achieve the Zionist regime's wants. But these wants will never halt the Palestinian revolution and these threats will never end Muslim support, especially that of the Iranian Muslims for the Palestinian Muslims.

Daily Calls On Israel To Take Back Deportees

LD0201144693 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—The morning daily TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial Saturday [2 January] said the Zionist regime must unconditionally implement the United Nations Resolution 779 [as received] and take back over 400 deported Palestinians.

The paper was commenting on the situation of more than 400 Palestinians expelled by the Zionist regime two weeks ago who are reportedly living under the most difficult conditions in no-man's-land, near Lebanese border, with no access to food, shelter and medicine.

On idea of giving asylum to the deportees by a third country, proposed by the U.N. secretary general's special envoy, James Jonah, the editorial said he is not "entitled" to make any such proposal.

"James Jonah, as U.N. representative, is not in a position to propose any other solution. this would be against the charter of the United Nations," said the daily.

The Israeli act is "anti international laws" and the most tragic aspect of the situation is that none of the permanent members of the Security Council have exerted any pressure on Israel to make it accept the resolution.

Faced with the unpredictable widespread reaction of the world public opinion to the deportation, the Zionist regime in a hasty move announced that there had been a "mistake" concerning 10 of the deportees and that they could return home.

"It goes without saying that these 10 people will be sentenced to long term imprisonment after they have returned home."

The daily in conclusion compared crimes of Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, to those of Hitler and said the only difference was that "Hitler did not have a strong support like America."

Indians Urged To Protest Against Extremists

LD0301141393 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA—The majority of the Indian nation who are against the extremist activities of the fanatical groups should stop being passive spectators of events and stage peaceful demonstrations in protest to the unprincipled actions which are threatening to tear the entire nation apart, 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote Sunday [3 January].

Referring to the recent peaceful demonstrations by the majority of the German population against activities of the neo-Nazi groups, the English daily wrote that the act deserves to be emulated by the silent majority of India.

It deplored that the Babri mosque crisis is turning into a national catastrophe for the entire Indian nation "because of the weak handling of the case by the Indian Government."

The daily's editorial cast doubt that the Indian Government's promises to have strong backing and to rebuild the Babri mosque would be materialized.

"It seems highly unlikely that the present Indian Government, whose policies are marred by weakness and indecisiveness will ever be able to overrule the opposition of the Hindu fanatics and build the mosque again."

The editorial further regretted that the Indian Government "is counting to bring the crisis to an end merely through procrastination and wasting time" adding that "such methods will only have the effect of emboldening the extremist groups whose pursuance of their ominous schemes is apt to jeopardize the territorial integrity of India."

"The actions of the Hindu fanatics are dealing severe blows to the international prestige of India" the editorial notified and said in conclusion that after the Germans who managed to rehabilitate the international prestige of their country by staging impressive demonstrations, "now it is the Indians' turn to redeem the reputation of their country through massive demonstrations."

Pakistan

Additional Troops Sent to Somalia at Bush Request

BK0301143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The first batch of additional Pakistani troops today left for Mogadishu to take part in the UN peace enforcement operation in Somalia. Addressing the troops before departure, Chief of the General Staff Lieutenant General Farrukh Khan urged them to display exemplary conduct during their stay in Somalia. He said the grim situation in the famine-stricken and war-torn country demands utmost devotion and dedication to complete the mission assigned by the United Nations. Chief of the general staff and other high-ranking army officials were present at the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] [as heard], Chaklala, to bid farewell to the troops. The departure of 65-member batch marks the beginning of the movement of an additional battalion of Pakistan troops being sent to Somalia. The request for additional troops was made by the U.S. President, Mr. Bush, to the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. Six hundred Pakistani troops are already in Somalia for the United Nations peacekeeping operation. They are guarding the Mogadishu airport to protect relief supplies for the starving Somalis.

Envoy To U.S. on Nuclear Nonproliferation

BK0101092893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Syeda Abida Hussain, Pakistan's ambasador to the United States, has said Pakistan honors the ideology of nuclear nonproliferation and has been implementing it as well. In a television interview in Islamabad, she said Pakistan has all along been stressing the need for declaring South Asia a nuclear-free zone, as it strongly believes in checking nuclear nonproliferation in order to make the world a secure place and a cradle of peace. She said if the United States plays any role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear arms in the region, Pakistan will welcome it. She made it clear that the proliferation of nuclear arms is not in Pakistan, but in India.

Referring to the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir, Syeda Abida Hussain said Pakistan has sympathy with the Kashmiris on their stand and is aware of it, but it extends only moral and diplomatic support to them.

Further on Envoy's Remarks

BK0101165093 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 1 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 31—Pakistan Ambassador to United States Syeda Abida Hussain has said Pakistan honours and uphold the concept of nuclear non-proliferation.

She was speaking in an interview on Pakistan Television here today.

She said Pakistan is not a nuclear proliferistic [word indistinct]. Proliferation is going on more in India rather than in Pakistan. "We believe in non-proliferation to make the world a safer place. We are pressing the need for nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia", she added.

Abida Hussain said US is extending pressure on Pakistan for strategic reasons and nuclear is one of them. "We have to look after our security needs. If USA can play some role in realising non-proliferation in the region then "we are not a bull in China shop" she added.

She said there was a programme on NBC some time back and used the term Islamic bomb. "If we go by the kind of jargon then there can be Jewish bomb and even Christian bomb. So it is the question fo Pakistan that she had three wars with India who has bought missiles from Russia," she added.

Pakistan Ambassador to United States said "I hope America would not declare Pakistan a terrorist state. For the Pakistanis the resistance in held Kashmir to the occupation of land is Jihad and it was in this context in Afghanistan that US went along with Pakistan and called the Afghan freedom fighters as mojahedin.

"For us struggle in Kashmir has the same dimensions". United States also recognises Kashmir as disputed territory. Even if there is resistance in Kashmir what this has to do with Pakistan?" she posed the question.

Syeda Abida Hussain said Kashmir's struggle lives by itself. Nawaz Sharif government feels for the cause of Kashmiris and gives it moral and diplomatic support. "By diplomatic support we mean persuasion and articulation." It does not behold [as published] United States to take up terrorist stick to beat Pakistan with.

She said Indian myth of secularism is buried under the debris of Babri Masjid [Mosque]. Pakistan did not start the Kashmir struggle and she could not stop it. Replying a question she said that Clinton administration would be result-oriented in this region. She thought that seeking any decision regarding this region Clinton administration would take Pakistan-India position into consideration, she emphasised.

She said though Pakistan is a small country as compared to USA it is not good for America to lose friends.

Political situation in Pakistan is stable. Democracy is solidifying and there is a complete freedom of Press. Syeda Abida said Pakistan is indigenising, modernising, democratising and Islamising. "Our economic interests do not demand aid what we need is trade. We want our goods to be evaluated as those of developed countries," she added.

Why Pakistani textile goods are being subjected to quota system. If USA could trade with Pakistan in 1982 why it could not in 1992, she added.—APP [Associated Press of Pakistan]

Islamabad Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics

BK0201144093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan has recognized the newly independent republics of Czech and Slovak. In a message, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has felicitated the foreign ministers of the two republics, welcoming their joining the comity of nations. The minister has also expressed Pakistan's desire for the continuation of cordial relations that so happily exist between Pakistan and the republics of Czech and Slovak.

Minister on Abduction of Diplomat in India

BK0301143493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, assured the Senate today that the government has taken all necessary steps for protection of Pakistani diplomats in other countries. He was speaking on the admissibility of adjournment motions over the torture and abduction of a Pakistani diplomat, Mr. Mohammad Ashfaq, by the Indian intelligence agencies. The minister expressed regret that the Indian Government has not suitably replied to the queries of Pakistan in this regard. He said the incident is a violation of Geneva convention. These adjournment motions were tabled by Professor Khurshid Ahmad, Raja Mohammad Afzal, Seyyed Safi Iqbal, Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, and Mr. Tariq Chaudhary. After the statement of the minister, the movers did not press their motion.

Earlier, the newly elected senator, Retired Justice Zakiuddin Pal, was administered oath.

Foreign Secretary on Size of Indian Consulate

BK0101155093 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 1 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan's foreign secretary Sheharyar Khan said Thursday [31 December] it had the right to ask India to slash its consular staff in Karachi.

He was commenting on a report from New Delhi that India had refused to reduce its consular staff in Karachi.

"A receiving state can decide how many diplomats and staff members a guest country should have, the right is given under the Geneva convention for diplomatic relations," said foreign secretary Khan.

Khan said, in a recent bilateral agreement signed by India and Pakistan in October 1992, it was agreed that there should be a balance in diplomatic staff between the two countries.

"The number in Karachi is too many, they have 62 and we have only two diplomats and one non-diplomatic official in Bombay," he said.

"We have received a full text of India's refusal from our ambassador in New Delhi and we are studying it," Khan added while declining to make any more comment.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Islamabad said India has hinted to Pakistan that if they insisted on New Delhi reducing its staff in Karachi, India may ask Islamabad to reduce its staff at the embassy in New Delhi.

The refusal, and Pakistan's insistence have so far caused the worst tension in already strained diplomatic relations between the two south Asian nations.

Defense Minister on Opposition, Talks With India

BK3112155292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has said that the government firmly believes in democratic ideals and this is why it repeatedly invited the opposition for talks in the best interests of the people. Talking to newsmen in Sukkur today, he said that the political process cannot move forward without the cooperation and mutual trust between the government and the opposition. He said the issue of the Babri Mosque is not an issue of the government or the opposition alone, it is an issue concerning the whole nation instead. The government and the opposition both are part of the nation and it was their duty to forge consensus not only on the Babri Mosque issue but on other issues as well.

The defense minister said that Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence with India and it has made efforts in the past to resolve all pending issues through dialogue. He said that the government is making wholehearted efforts to maintain the cordial atmosphere for holding the defense secretary-level talks which will be held in Islamabad shortly.

Minister Reaffirms Support for Kashmiris' Struggle

BK0401085693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has reiterated Pakistan's determination to continue providing moral, diplomatic, and political support to the Kashmiris' struggle undaunted by any threat or pressure from any quarter. Answering a question by Chaudhary Nazir Ahmed Virke in the National Assembly this morning, he said Pakistan would continue to draw attention of the international community toward [word indistinct] atrocities of genocidal proportion in held Kashmir. The atrocities are being committed by Indian forces against innocent Kashmiri people whose only fault is their demand for their right to self-determination. He said Indian brutalities and gross human rights violations in held Kashmir have been denounced by the international community. The minister of state for foreign affairs told the house that a high-level meeting has discussed the question of deportation of illegal foreign nationals in Pakistan. The meeting decided that illegal immigrants should be deported and a number of measures were decided upon to this end.

Pakistan Assumes UN Security Council Seat

BK0101151893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan today became a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council for a period of two years. Pakistan was elected to the Security Council along with four other countries by a two-thirds majority in the meeting of the General Assembly in October last. Pakistan has been elected to the Security council for the fifth time.

PTV correspondent reports from New York that Pakistan is now better placed to raise the issue of Kashmir and impress upon the other members of the council to support Islamabad's efforts for implementation of UN resolution on Kashmir. Pakistan which is also the current chairman of the developing countries Group of 77 will play a vigorous role for promotion of peace and stability in the world, the primary duty of the Security Council. Pakistan replaces India while Spain, New Zealand, Brazil, and Djibouti will take seat from Austria, Belgium, Equador, and Zimbabwe.

Official on Role as Security Council Member

BK0201155393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary General Akram Zaki says as an Islamic and peace-loving country, Pakistan will strive to preserve peace and security everywhere in the world. He was commenting on the assumption of the membership of the UN Security Council by Pakistan for a two-year term. He said any future world order must be based on mutual justice and that security and sovereignty of all countries—big or small—should be preserved and there should be no interference in the internal affairs of any other country. Pakistan will uphold these principles as a member of the UN Security Council. Akram Zaki stressed the need for exempting Bosnia-Hercegovina from the sanctions imposed by the United Nations on the warring factions in that region for the supply of weapons. He condemned the aggressive designs and policies of the Serbian authorities and urged the world body to take action against Serbia in accordance with the UN Charter.

Report on Mass Deportations From Gulf Denied

BK0101160693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] A foreign office spokesman has stated that there is no possibility for a large-scale deportation of Pakistanis from Gulf states, as reported in a section of the press. The spokesman said information has been obtained from Pakistani embassies in the Gulf states to this effect and the foreign office has been informed that the recently-published press reports are totally baseless.

Editorial Discusses Deportations

BK0301102093 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 Jan 93 p 7

[Editorial: "What has happened to the Gulf connection?"]

[Text] What is happending to our Gulf connection? Despite the official denial that there is not threat of large-scale expulsion of Pakistanis settled in the region spanning the countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council [GCC], public apprehensions and doubts persist about the recent developments. In recent days a total of 1,920 Pakistanis are officially admitted to have been deported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for various reasons including participation in demonstrations over the Babri Mosque tragedy. The majority of those expelled in recent days or weeks had the legal status to stay. Naturally this situation is disturbing and arouses suspicion that there may be more to this development. Incidentally some 500 workers who held valid Omani visas were also expelled.

It is curious as well as unfortunate that at a time when borders elsewhere, more specifically in Western Europe, are becoming more open, the Gulf countries are in the process of erecting higher barriers for the movement of manpower from Pakistan to their areas, in whose development in the seventies and the eighties our labour force played a key role. Whatever the GCC countries' compulsions for having stringent immigration laws, some of these look hardly in tune with the spirit of the changing times. For example for those Pakistanis who work in one GCC country, the movement within the larger Gulf region should be made easier in order to facilitate alternative employment. Other inflexibilities and rigidities in their laws also need to be softened. This means that the proposed [words indistinct] within the GCC countries should also apply to immigrants.

On our part we also need to make suitable adjustments in our economic strategy which continues to put excessive reliance on the Gulf connection for earning foreign exchange through remittances and job opportunities. Recent statistics clearly show the declining trend in employment and the flow of remittances from this area.

But the important thing to remember that the region too needs now more sophisticated skills in a second and higher stage of its economic development. Because of geographical proximity and other cultural affinities Pakistan and its manpower with better skills can still play a significant role in the region. The relevant ministry and agencies should undertake a comprehensive study of the changing socio-economic and political trends in the region in order to render appropriate advice to those seeking new pastures abroad. Above all Islamabad should play a more active role in ensuring a civilised deal for those working in the Gulf.

Sri Lanka

Navy Shells Boats, Kills 14 Tamil Civilians

BK0401110693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] COLOMBO, Jan 4 (AFP)—A navy gunboat shelled a flotilla of passenger boats crossing a prohibited waterway in northern Sri Lanka, killing 14 Tamil civilians and seriously wounding five others, local officials said Monday. The small craft were on the Jaffna lagoon Saturday when the navy began shelling them, a Tamil administrator told reporters in northern Vavuniya town, about 90 kilometers (56 miles) south of the Jaffna peninsula.

The government administrator M. Ponnampalam said an education officer was among the 14 killed. A woman admitted to the Vavuniya hospital with serious injuries was later transferred to a better hospital further south.

A military spokesman here confirmed that the navy had engaged "some targets" in the Jaffna lagoon but said they had no details of casualties.

The military has banned boat traffic in the lagoon to prevent guerrillas of the dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), slipping in and out of their main stronghold of the Jaffna peninsula. However hundreds of Tamil civilians commute to the mainland across the lagoon as all land routes have been either taken over by government forces or declared "no-go" areas by the Tigers.

Thousands of civilians have died in Sri Lanka's ongoing ethnic conflict with the LTTE leading a 20-year-old guerrilla campaign to establish an independent Tamil homeland in the northeast.

President Appeals for Durable Peace

BK0301121493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa has stressed the need to ensure durable peace for the future prosperity of the country. He added that our foresight will decide the future of the motherland. Lethal weapons have not brought durable peace anywhere at any time. Addressing the nation on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of his induction as president of the Republic of Sri Lanka, he said that according to the Buddha Dhamma [Buddhist teachings], there are four noble weapons. They are more powerful than all the lethal weapons. They are the four noble principles—love and kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity. He emphasized that to be armed with these noble weapons will help to achieve the objective of durable peace. The urgent need of the hour is a peaceful solution to the northeast crisis. It will facilitate peaceful coexistence among all sections of the people and reduce defense expenditure. The government will release more funds to improve the living conditions of the people. It will also bring down inflation, and, above all, it will save so many innocent lives.

The president pointed out that the government has restructured the economy. The economic policies are pragmatic and liberal. They are aimed at economic expansion. The per capita income of Sri Lanka is the highest in the South Asian region. The rate of growth is also one of the highest in this region. In the face of global recession, these are impressive achievements despite the huge defense expenditure.

Addressing a mass gathering in the hill capital, the president said that the people are the country's greatest asset. We have invested in the people and this achievement has brought big dividend. The people are the productive partners of the economy. The concept of the big investor-small producer tie-up has ensured production by the masses. The president added that society is diverse and that is the country's strength. This country belongs to every one of its citizens. The president urged all to forget past prejudices and join hands in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the citizens.

Improved Weapons To Be Used Against Tamil Tigers

BK0301111893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Sri Lanka security forces will use improved weapons against the Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the 10th year of their war against the separatists. The military is awaiting delivery of recently ordered ground attack aircraft, assault transport helicopters, and fast gunboats. With these, it hopes to end the conflict in which more than 25,000 people have died. The technological level of the war has risen sharply over the past decade and battles have become bigger. The total strength of the security forces has grown. Including the police, they now number more than 180,000, with the army alone accounting for 11,000 men when the fighting began in earnest in 1983. [sentence as heard] Infantry officers said it was important for the armed forces to keep up the pressure on the Tigers so that their leaders would not have time to plan and carry out attacks.

Police Clash With Paramilitary Guards in East

BK0201132893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1309 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] COLOMBO, Jan 2 (AFP)—Hundreds of Moslem villagers besieged a police station in eastern Sri Lanka Saturday to protest an attack against para-military Moslem homeguards, the military said.

Police fired in the air to disperse the villagers who ringed the Eravur police station after constables beat up two Moslem homeguards who refused to part with their bicycles to the regular policemen, a military official said.

"The situation has now been brought under control. At least three people received minor injuries when police fired warning shots," a military spokesman here said.

However, local officials said the attacks were sparked after police teased Moslem women in the coastal area and homeguards tried to intervene. Local officials said over a dozen people were wounded.

Homeguards are a para-military unit armed and trained by the police and have supplemented regular constables and security forces in the government's drive against separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas.